

Qatar opposes Iraq, Iran isolation

DUBAI (R) — Qatar is opposed to the isolation of either Iraq or Iran and called for Iraq's return to the Arab fold, the Qatari News Agency (ONA) reported on Sunday. Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Al Thani told Doha Television on Saturday night: "Qatar does not believe in the policy aimed at shutting out Iraq or Iran," ONA reported. He was apparently referring to Washington's so-called dual containment policy to isolate both Iraq and Iran. "We disagreed with Iraq on the issue of occupying Kuwait and abided by the resolutions of international legality... but there is a humanitarian side; and that is not accepting the degradation of the Iraqi people," the minister added. "There must be dealings with Iraq now, in a humanitarian fashion, for its return to the Arab fold and in turn the international community," said Sheikh Hamad. But similar remarks last month by United Arab Emirates Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maktoum were received coolly by Kuwaiti. He had also urged Kuwait to let bygones be bygones. The Qatari minister was full of praise for Sheikh Mohammad for "expressing what is in the hearts of most Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Qatar studies Israeli office request

Doha (AFP) — Qatar is studying an Israeli request to open a liaison bureau in Doha, Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Al Thani said Sunday. Sheikh Hamad also said a feasibility study was underway on the construction of a gas pipeline to provide Qatari natural gas to Israel. "Israel has asked to open an interest bureau in Qatar, which is waiting for the right moment to take a decision on this issue," Sheikh Hamad told state television here. "The Qatari government has asked an American office to carry out a feasibility study on the construction of a gas pipeline for the supply of Qatari gas to Israel," Sheikh Hamad said. Qatar has natural gas reserves estimated at 7,080 billion cubic metres, the third biggest in the world behind Russia and Iran. By choosing Qatar to provide gas Israel is looking to diversify its energy suppliers, Sheikh Hamad added. "In line with its concept of strategic security, Israel has said it would not be tied to one single energy supplier and that it would import gas from Egypt, Qatar or other parties." However, he added: "Qatar will not get involved in a project with Israel until substantial progress has been registered in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks" of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Volume 19 Number 5843

AMMAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1995, RAMADAN 13, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Clinton vows doubled peace effort

Arab, Israeli and U.S. ministers meet in Washington

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton on Sunday opened a meeting of Arab and Israeli ministers meant to revive the troubled Middle East peace process, saying the United States would "redouble our efforts" to get it back on track.

The meeting, chaired by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, brought together foreign ministers from Israel, Jordan and Egypt and a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official.

The peace process has been deadlocked by Israeli-PLO differences over Palestinian self-rule plans.

"It is no secret to anyone in the world that we are at a critical moment in the peace process. We cannot allow the rise of terror again to threaten this peace," Mr. Clinton said.

"We are prepared in this country to redouble our efforts to get the peace process back in full gear. We are doing what we can on our own and with others to deal with the problem of terror,"

he said, without elaborating. "We cannot let people believe that they can disrupt the rational, humane, decent course of history by terror," he said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Pososvayuk represented his government.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake also joined in the opening.

Mr. Clinton hoped Sunday's meeting would establish specific steps the parties could take to keep the peace process going.

He said he was willing to go to Congress for duty-free treatment of goods from industrial zones on the West Bank and Gaza if the Israelis and Palestinians agreed to set them up.

"I am absolutely convinced we have to move as quickly as we can to prove that there are some economic benefits from peace," he said as the meeting opened at Blair House, an official government guest house opposite the White House.

The Israel-PLO talks are

stuck over Israel's demand for a Palestinian clampdown on militant groups and Palestinian demands that Israel lift its closure of the West Bank and Gaza and stop settlement activities in those areas.

Israel sealed off the areas on Jan. 22 after a suicide bomb killed 21 Israelis.

Sunday's meeting brought together foreign ministers Shimon Peres of Israel, Amr Mussa of Egypt, Abdul Karim Al Kababri of Jordan and senior PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath.

It follows on from a Cairo summit Feb. 2 of Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian and PLO leaders which came up with general declarations of commitment to the peace process but no new ideas for advancing it.

The failure of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to resolve the issues dividing them at a meeting last Thursday convinced the PLO of the need for U.S. intervention.

The United States

apparently wanted to steer clear of contentious issues at Sunday's meeting and focus on economic and other projects that can show a common resolve to keep the peace process going.

But the PLO has signalled that it intends to bring up its differences with Israel, and particularly the closure of the Israeli border with Gaza and the West Bank which has prevented tens of thousands of Palestinians from going to work.

The disputes are preventing progress on the next phase of the 1993 Israel-PLO peace agreement — Palestinian.

Despite the return of its ambassador to Washington, Syria's peace talks with Israel remained suspended. And new efforts to press Israel to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty and open its facilities to outside nuclear inspectors could also slow progress.

A U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity, said negotiations were in "a difficult period" and told reporters at the State Department "we have good relations both with Israel and the PLO."

ment "don't expect the meeting to suddenly transform things."

Syrian Ambassador Walid Al Moualem returned this week from Damascus after a lengthy absence, but he has not rescheduled talks with Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovitch that were suspended in December.

Their quiet meetings in Washington were the only active contacts between Syria and Israel, which have been sparring for more than three years over peace terms and the future of the Golan Heights, a strategic border enclave.

Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with Israel last year, held out hope for a successful ministerial meeting. "We will try to accomplish as much as possible on security and other obstacles," Ambassador Fayed Tarawneh said in an interview Friday. "Jordan, with Egypt, is in a good position to mediate. We have good relations both with Israel and the PLO."



American Jewish Committee President Robert Riffkind on Sunday presents a photograph representing peace to His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

King: Jordan will set model for coexistence

American Jewish Committee ready to help Jordan consolidate peace

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to not only consolidating peace with Israel but also to work in close cooperation with the Jewish state and provide an example of peaceful coexistence in the Middle East.

The King, addressing an 82-member delegation of the American Jewish Committee, also said that the majority of Jordanians supported the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel and the overall Arab-Israeli peace process, but that there were also forces seeking to wreck peace.

The King said Jordan and Israel were "looking at all possibilities of joint ventures of economic cooperation of the resources available to us, mineral resources, of the land, of how to turn the Jordan Rift Valley into a green valley before too long."

in order to set an example for how decade-old adversaries could interact economically to benefit people from both sides.

He said: "One area of very, very great importance which I shall concentrate on is to remove all the barriers between... people on both sides.

"I'm sure that eventually we'll be able to put together the talents, the human resources, to work together and achieve for this entire region and for its peoples a better future."

"Obviously, people have many expectations. Some of them might not immediately realize them," the King said. "It will take time and effort."

"But at least, we're over the perpetual nightmare... where for many, many years, on both sides, we didn't know what each day would bring," he said. "Now we know that we have a new beginning and a worthy one."

King Hussein reiterated his willingness to use Jordan's new-found relations with Israel to advance peace negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

Thanking the King for his warm welcome, the head of the delegation, President of the American Jewish Committee Robert Riffkind, expressed his organization's strong interest in the future of peace in the region and his hopes that other parties to the peace process would soon follow Jordan's example.

Mr. Riffkind invited suggestions from Jordan on how Americans in general, and members of the Jewish Committee in particular, could help to strengthen the peace process.

Mr. Riffkind expressed concern that religious fundamentalists could torpedo the U.S.-backed peace process that began in 1991.

"We're concerned in the (Continued on page 7)

Sharif Zeid affirms firm position against corruption

Opposition alleges arbitrary moves; Hammad denies charge

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday said his government was committed to fighting corruption and that "accusations that cannot be substantiated should be referred to the public prosecutor for investigation."

The prime minister was commenting on a question raised by Deputy Nazif Amman (Karak) during a Parliament session Sunday in which the deputy said that some reports suggested that merchants were importing meat unfit for human consumption during and before the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Health Minister Aref Batayneh replied to the deputy by stressing that the Health Ministry does not allow the entry into the country of food before laboratory tests determine that they are fit for human consumption. He said that if tests prove the foodstuff not fit the ministry would promptly destroy it and refer the merchant to trial.

On another issue, Deputy Toujan Faisal (Amman) called on the government to set up a special committee to

(Continued on page 7)

they said, also calling for the lifting of a preaching ban on clerics opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Ishaq Farhan, spokesman of the opposition coalition, alleged that Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government was waging a "bitter campaign against the opponents of the peace treaty and violating their human rights."

He said all inmates in the country's prisons were "criminals who violated the law."

The 11 Islamic, left-wing and Arab nationalist groups held a joint press conference here to warn of "restrictions of democratic freedom" and to present a list of six demands to the government.

They urged the authorities to cancel trials of opposition leaders and journalists accused of involvement with an unauthorised committee fighting against normalisation with Israel.

The opposition should have the right to put its case in the government press and visit "political prisoners,"

(Continued on page 7)

they said, also calling for the lifting of a preaching ban on clerics opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Ishaq Farhan, spokesman of the opposition coalition, alleged that Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government was waging a "bitter campaign against the opponents of the peace treaty and violating their human rights."

He said all inmates in the country's prisons were "criminals who violated the law."

The 11 Islamic, left-wing and Arab nationalist groups held a joint press conference here to warn of "restrictions of democratic freedom" and to present a list of six demands to the government.

They urged the authorities to cancel trials of opposition leaders and journalists accused of involvement with an unauthorised committee fighting against normalisation with Israel.

The opposition should have the right to put its case in the government press and visit "political prisoners,"

(Continued on page 7)

they said, also calling for the lifting of a preaching ban on clerics opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Ishaq Farhan, spokesman of the opposition coalition, alleged that Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government was waging a "bitter campaign against the opponents of the peace treaty and violating their human rights."

He said all inmates in the country's prisons were "criminals who violated the law."

The 11 Islamic, left-wing and Arab nationalist groups held a joint press conference here to warn of "restrictions of democratic freedom" and to present a list of six demands to the government.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching the length of southern Yemen up to Oman.

They refused to discuss the issue of the rest of the frontier stretching

Egypt refuses to budge on NPT

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, despite U.S. pressure, has stuck to his guns in a war of words with Israel over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) due to be extended this year.

"All I can say is the day Israel signs (the extension), I will sign," Mr. Mubarak said in an interview published Sunday in the Arabic-language daily *A' Hayat* newspaper.

"Let's wait and see what the Israelis do. If they say they are going to sign in three or four years we will put down reservations for three or four years. Then we will sign together," Mr. Mubarak said.

He added he "can't foresee for now any other solution" to the problem.

The United States, which provides Cairo with \$2.1 billion in aid annually, has urged Egypt not to link its position to Israel's.

"Egyptian public opinion will not understand how Israel can keep nuclear weapons in times of peace. Nor will they understand its refusal to sign the NPT while Egypt is asked to do it," Mr. Mubarak added.

Egypt and the 169 other countries that have signed the treaty are to meet in April to decide whether to extend the treaty for an indefinite or limited period.

Israel, warning that it is still threatened by countries like Iran which are not involved in the Middle East peace negotiations, has refused to sign it and has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons.

However, Western experts say the Jewish state has about 200 nuclear warheads.

Mr. Mubarak's top advisor, Osama Al-Baz, said Saturday that "Egypt will decide its position independently and will not allow any country to influence its policy."

Bahrain 'will not recognise' International Court ruling

MANAMA (Agencies) — Bahrain said late Saturday it would not recognise the ruling of the International Court of Justice, due Wednesday, on the admissibility of submissions regarding its border conflict with Qatar.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa, quoted by the Gulf News Agency, said Bahrain rejected the authority of the court in this matter without agreement on a joint submission on all points of the dispute.

He called on Qatar to begin bilateral negotiations on resolving the conflict, which dates back more than half-a-century, on their joint maritime border and various marine areas and islands.

If such negotiations failed, the minister said the dispute should go to the next summit in December of the Gulf Cooperation Council, of which both countries are members.

Qatar asked the International Court of Justice in July 1991 to rule that it had sovereignty over the Hawar islands and the Dibab area, without mentioning the other area in dispute, Zubara.

Bahrain contested the validity of Qatar's request and the competence of the court to rule on the matter. Last July the court gave both states until the following

"Some Arab countries support Egypt's position," Dr. Baz said during a meeting with students at Helwan University in the Cairo suburbs.

He said the possibility of a reduction in U.S. aid because of its position on extending the NPT was "very limited."

"In any case Egypt is convinced that this aid will not continue indefinitely," he added.

The draft U.S. budget for fiscal year 1996 announced last week maintains aid to Egypt at last year's levels, including almost \$1.3 billion in military funding.

"Within the framework of the peace negotiations, Israel must agree to rid the region of nuclear weapons," Dr. Baz said. "Israel's refusal (to sign the NPT) will provoke instability in the Middle East."

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said in remarks published on Saturday that "some Arab countries are leaning towards signing without an Israeli commitment to do so."

A final decision on the issue will be taken during a ministerial meeting of the Arab League on March 22 in Cairo.

A senior foreign ministry official said Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who is due to attend talks Sunday in Washington aimed at unblocking the Arab-Israeli peace process, will also meet with members of the Republican-led Congress to ask for aid to be confirmed at current levels.

Egypt is currently modernising its army and the U.S. aid "cannot be regarded as negligible," Egyptian strategic studies expert Murad Dessouki said recently, but added that Cairo could turn to its Arab neighbours for help if the dollar flow dried up.



ISRAELI DIGS: Workers from the Israeli antiquities authority removing stones from the western wall in East Jerusalem as part of a new excavation. The operation is planned to end with the commemoration of what Israel considers as the 3000th anniversary of Jerusalem's founding in 1996 (AFP photo)

Syria, Lebanon to fight 'pressures' for peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) —

Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi agreed during talks in Damascus on Sunday to counter "increasing pressures" linked to the stalled peace talks with Israel, Syrian officials said.

President spokesman Joubra Kourieb said the leaders co-chaired two sessions of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council over the weekend and held a closed-door meeting afterwards.

An official said the meetings were aimed at "countering increasing pressures which are being exerted on Syria and Lebanon with the aim of foiling the peace process."

He said both countries "are determined to continue their coordination and consultations despite all the pressures and other possibilities which might occur in the future."

The officials did not elaborate.

No tangible progress has been made in Israel's peace talks with Syria and Lebanon. Both countries want the Jewish state to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

The official Syrian daily Al-Baath reported U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher or Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross might return to the region to discuss how to break the deadlock of the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks.

He said both countries "are determined to continue their coordination and consultations despite all the pressures and other possibilities which might occur in the future."

The officials did not elaborate.

"With the continuation of a stalemate on the peace process and specifically on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, there have been reports from the U.S. capital referring to

Hafez Al-Assad

Elias Hrawi

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

occupied from Syria in 1967, and from South Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1982.

Home News

enies he ordered
family killing

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles the Adalleh family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visited Al Adalleh family in Thaniyah, near Karak, and conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's condolences to the family over the death of Ahmad Al Adalleh, Jordan's ambassador to Syria. Prince Hassan praised the late Jordanian envoy as a dedicated man who had worked with dedication to serve his country. Al Adalleh family thanked Prince Hassan for his visit and expressed their gratitude to the Hashemite leadership. Prince Hassan then joined worshippers attending the noon prayer at Al Thaniyah Mosque. The late Adalleh died early Saturday at King Hussein Medical Centre where he was receiving medical treatment. His body was laid to rest late Saturday in his hometown of Thaniyah. The Karak governor stood in for King Hussein in attending the funeral.

Ghosheh, UNRWA head hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Services to the Palestinians living in refugee camps throughout the country figured high during a meeting held Sunday between Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Asem Ghosheh and Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Jordan Ele Saaf. Mr. Ghosheh and Mr. Saaf stressed the importance of coordinating joint efforts to prepare for the major donor countries' conference which will be held here on March 8. Mr. Ghosheh said the meeting comes at a crucial time, when UNRWA's budget makes it difficult for it to cope with the increasing demand for its services by the refugee community. Mr. Ghosheh called on the international community to support UNRWA's budget to enable it to provide health and educational services and job opportunities.

Gharaibeh inaugurates exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan President, Fawzi Gharaibeh, Sunday opened the second pharmaceutical week, organised by the Faculty of Pharmacy, and inaugurated the pharmaceutical industries exhibition held on the sideline of the week. On display at the exhibition, which is held under the theme "Towards an advanced national pharmaceutical industry," are drug samples produced by Al Hikmat Pharmaceutical Company, the Arab Centre for Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries, Jordan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (JPM), Al Ram Pharmaceutical Industries Company and Dar Al Dawaa.

Chamber of industry invited to exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry has received an invitation from the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry to take part in Muscat's third International Exhibition which will be held between Oct. 15 and 21 to coincide with Oman's celebrations of its national day. The invitation was contained in a letter from Yacoub Ben Hamad Al Harithi, president of the Omani chamber of commerce and industry to Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the chamber of industry.

JNRCs chief returns from Venezuela

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCs) Mohammad Al Hadid Sunday returned home after a five-day visit to Venezuela where he attended meetings of the vice presidents of the International Federation for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and participated in the Venezuelan celebrations for the centennial anniversary since establishing the Venezuelan Red Cross Society. In an arrival statement, Dr. Hadid said that the meetings discussed, among other things, issues pertaining to respect of international humanitarian law and promoting awareness about it, activities of the various Red Cross and Red Crescent societies worldwide, election of the standing committee members, in addition to a study on the need to revise some provisions of the charter of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Australian delegation due in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Australian economic delegation led by Minister of Trade Bob MacMillan is due in Amman in Feb. 17 for a four-day official visit to Jordan. The delegation will hold talks with Jordanian private and public sectors on trade and economic cooperation. During the visit, the Australian minister will formally inaugurate a regional office of the Australian meat and livestock corporation. Agreement on the opening of the office was concluded between the Australian and Jordanian governments last Thursday in Amman.

120-year-old woman dies

IRBD (Petra) — A 120-year-old woman died here Saturday in her hometown of Kuf Kefya in the Irbid Governorate. Fatima Issa Al Omari, who was said to be born in 1875, was one of the few Jordanians to live so long. She was reported in good health until her death. The late Fatima is survived by more than 300 sons, daughters and grand children, according to Petra.

RJ to launch Amman-Osaka route

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) will launch a new air route between Amman and Osaka, Japan, on May 10, to coincide with the start of the Jordanian Cultural Week activities, which will be launched by that time. Two weekly flights will be operating on this line to serve the passenger and cargo movement. This route will also help market Jordanian tourism in Japan.

245 villages connected to power grid

AMMAN (Petra) — Some 245 villages, with a total of 3,990 houses, were connected to the national electricity power grid during the past two years at a total cost of JD 14.3 million, according to Director of the Jordanian Rural Electrification Project Samih Ujeilat. Mr. Ujeilat said the project management started this year to implement the second phase which includes supplying electricity to 146 villages inhabited by 30,000 people. He said the second phase, which will cost JD 4.9 million, will end by the beginning of 1996.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- ★ Film entitled "Mata-Hari" at the French Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Onkel Wanja" at Goethe-Institut at 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ye Who Are Hearing" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ RAMADAN CONCERT Concert by Beharab Rabadi at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.
- ★ FILMS Film entitled "Mata-Hari" at the French Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ PLAY Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ye Who Are Hearing" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ RAMADAN CONCERT Concert by Beharab Rabadi at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.
- ★ EXHIBITIONS Exhibition of paintings under glass entitled "Oriental Roots" by Fatima Rahou at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing another exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy.
- ★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funan. Also showing works by contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.

Agreements to help improve investment climate in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — To provide information about investment opportunities and contribute to creating a proper investment climate, the Investment Promotion Department (IPD) Sunday concluded three agreements with three local consulting companies to undertake studies on industrial, agricultural and tourist investments in Jordan.

Under the industrial investments agreement, a local consulting company specialised in setting up industrial projects is asked to identify 15 projects covering various parts of Jordan. The company then prepares its studies and submits them to the IPD within 105 days after the day of assigning it the work. Costs for projects in this sector will range from JD 50,000 and JD 1 million.

Under the second agreement, which covers the agricultural sector, a local company specialised in engineering and management of agricultural projects has been assigned to identify 60 investment opportunities in this field before the end of March 1995.

The third agreement, which covers the tourism sector, provides for identifying and doing the preparatory work for 15 investment opportunities, including the construction of tourist hotels, restaurants, parks and towers in hilly areas, ranging in height from 70 to 80 metres, in addition to constructing swimming pools, chalets and gardens in the Jordan Valley.

The agreements were signed for the IPD by its Director General Asem Hindawi and for the companies by their respective directors general.

Journalists' roundtable to be held

AMMAN (U.N. Information Service) — As a means to raise media awareness and to spark discussions on the issues of the upcoming World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Department of Public Information in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCAWA), is organising a journalists' roundtable on Feb. 15 and 16.

During the two-day roundtable, about 15 prominent journalists from various Arab countries will participate in a panel discussion on social development issues. In addition, short briefings on the social summit and its goals will be given by ESCAWA executive secretary Dr. Hazem Al Behlwi, United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative Osman Hashem, Department of Public Information Representative Marian Awwad and Human Development Section Chief/Social Development Issues and Policies Division Dr. George Kossai.

During the panel discussion, chief editors and prominent journalists from Al Ahram, Al Hayat, Al Sharq Al Awsat, Al Ayyam, Al Nahar, Al Safir, Al Qabas, Yemen Times, Al Dustour, and Al Rai will discuss the issues of the summit as well as the role of the media in raising public awareness.

The World Summit for Social Development, scheduled to take place in Copenhagen between March 6 and 12, 1995, will address three core themes: alleviation and reduction of poverty, expansion of productive employment and enhancement of social integration.

First stages of anti-desertification project completed east of Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The first and second stages of a project to fight off desertification and improve soil fertility have been completed in a semi-desert area 30 kilometres south east of Amman and it is hoped that work on the third stage will begin during this year, according to Dr. Awni Tucimah, the project's technical director.

The project, conducted by the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture with financing from the European Union (EU), is being implemented on a 2,000-dunum plot of land in the hadia region, located 14 kilometres east of Ma'wqar, said Dr. Tucimah Sunday.

He said that the cost of the four-year project is estimated to be JD 2,560 million. The EU will be providing 60 per cent of the cost and the rest will be provided by the University of Jordan.

The land where the project is being implemented, Dr. Tucimah said, is part of Jordanian areas that receive between 100 and 200 millimetres of rain only. Such land is estimated in Jordan to be of a 12-million-dunum

area, accounting for 13 per cent of the Kingdom's total surface, according to Dr. Tucimah.

The participating parties in the project have conducted a feasibility study and worked out a plan which would help people develop arid regions and make them productive, said Dr. Tucimah.

The project entails better and more efficient means for the exploitation of surface water, improving the fertility of the soil, introducing ways to stop soil deterioration, increase vegetation and stop desertification.

The project entails growing shrubs and forest and fruit tree saplings and water harvesting methods as well as the collection of rain water in pools, said Dr. Tucimah who stressed that these steps are vital to stop desertification which is encroaching from the east.

Preliminary studies, he noted, have shown that the encroachment of the desert happened only in the past few decades and that the lands in the badia region still hold productive potentials.

Leaving the badia region.

Jordan should comply with AI plan of action for its office to reopen

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A visiting Amnesty International (AI) team said human rights groups in Jordan should comply with a strict plan of action in order to reopen AI office in the Kingdom.

June Ray, AI programme director for the Middle East region, said the decision was taken only after all other attempts to activate the AI Jordan office ended in failure.

"When the organisation's credibility is put at risk, we are forced to take such a decision," Ms. Ray said. "We are laying the basis for a better growth and giving a clear message to safeguard AI's work."

The London-based secretariat decided to close its offices in Amman last month due to international conflicts, according to a statement released by the secretariat.

At present, the secretariat has drawn up a "clear and strict" plan of action for the groups in Jordan but the Middle East specialist said there is no specific time framework. "When we can justify its existence, the office will be reopened again," she said.

A new set of criteria for membership was included in the new plan of action, as well as training programmes introduced to train members on AI work and objectives, she said.

"We thought they reached the stage to open an office," she said. "We will be monitoring their work in the coming months to ensure they will not engage in high profile activities."

This is not the first time AI closes down its offices. Similar decisions were taken in India and Senegal as well as other countries. AI offices are subject to harassment from the ruling authorities.

"In Tunisia, our office could not receive the mail and publications we are sending them," Ms. June said.

Members should function under the AI umbrella. Their main aim should be to work for human rights issues and not for their political affiliations," said Abdul Majeed Kirshab, AI membership coordinator for the Middle East and Maghreb Union.

Until its closure, the AI had 18 groups that included about 300 members.

Lecture is part of campaign to establish secretaries' union

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Women's Union (JWA) Sunday announced that March 8 will be designated for holding a lecture entitled "Towards establishing a secretaries' union," part of a campaign launched by the union towards that end.

"The reason we chose March 8, which happens to be the International Women's Day, is because we want to emphasise the importance of establishing a secretaries' union," said Asma Khader, president of the JWA.

Addressing members of the committee which was established to study all aspects of abuse the secretaries face, their work stability, low wages and, most important, to get exposed to the reality of their problems and set our priorities based on it," said Ms. Khader.

The questionnaire intends to study the secretaries face, their work stability, low wages and, most important, to get exposed to the reality of their problems and set our priorities based on it," said Ms. Khader.

Moreover, Ms. Khader said, the questionnaire will try to establish if secretaries have any knowledge of their rights, if they were fired for no reason or asked to work extra hours, or were sexually harassed by their employers.

Ms. Khader said that another priority for the questionnaire is to determine the wages most secretaries receive at their jobs.

"We have had repeated complaints that most secretaries received less than the minimum wages and some of them do not even get paid if they work extra time," she said.

According to Claire Salah, director of students affairs at Al Wasif Secretarial Training Centre, secretary wages have been declining in the 1990s.

She said that between the year 1980 to 1985, a secretary's fare used to range between JD120 and JD150 for beginners. These days, she said, the wages declined to reach JD60 to JD80 for a beginner.

"What would such an amount of money do for these secretaries? Half of it goes for transportation and the other half for food," said Ms. Salah who is responsible for more than 350 students who will graduate to become secretaries.

The secretaries committee suggested inviting experts in the secretarial field to lecture on March 8, Ms. Khader said, adding that the JWA is suggesting asking deputy Mustafa Shneikat, Ifat Halasch, director of the Women's Department at the Ministry of Labour, Yousef Abu Dieh, director of the Wasif centre, and a secretary to talk about the problems the secretaries face at work, their dreams, ambitions and demands.

According to Ms. Khader, the JWA intends to announce the results of the questionnaire on Labour Day, May 1.

Minister inspects Ajloun area hospital

AJLOUN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Batayneh Sunday visited the Ajloun governorate to inspect health services offered by the Iman government hospital in Ajloun city and the health centres in the region.

He said that he wanted to examine the health situation and medical service offered through the health centres to the local communities. He said that he wanted to examine the health situation and medical service offered through the health centres to the local communities.

Dr. Batayneh announced that the Health Ministry will soon increase the Iman hospital beds from 85 to 110 to cope with the demand on hospitalisation services.

He said that the ministry will also set up a residential quarter for the hospital nurses, noting that the ministry will also study the condition of the hospital workers with a view to increasing their wages as they are far less than those of the nurses and assistant nurses.

The minister promised to increase the basic salaries of these workers.

Accompanied by Dr.

Ziyad Abida, director of the Health Department, the minister toured the Iman hospital sections and was briefed on the services offered to the public.

Celebrate Valentine's Day

at Leonardo

Da Vinci

restaurant

Shmisani

Tel. 606281 - 662441



Mexican army's manhunt for guerrilla commander grinds on

Protesters seek end to Chiapas crackdown

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (R) — The Mexican army's manhunt for masked guerrilla leader Sub-commander Marcos continued as the government tightened its clampdown on indigenous rebels in the southern state of Chiapas.

With first blood drawn after two soldiers were shot and killed Friday in rebel territory, security forces consolidated their control of the guerrillas' best-known jungle base at Guadalupe Tepeyac, about 80 miles (130 km) southeast of this colonial city, bringing in light tanks and armoured troop vehicles.

The National Defence Ministry said 2,500 troops, 33 aircraft, 30 tanks and 32 armoured vehicles were in-

volved in the operation launched Thursday that brought at least a dozen formerly rebel-held towns under military control in what the government says is a legal action, not military.

Com. Marcos, in an interview published Saturday by La Jornada newspaper in Mexico City, struck a defiant tone and pledged drawn-out guerrilla warfare if the clampdown continued.

"What is coming, if nobody stops it, is guerrilla war," Com. Marcos said in an interview apparently carried out Thursday in Guadalupe Tepeyac. "They are heading us towards long-term, debilitating armed resistance... we will win."

An officer commanding

government paratroopers who entered the guerrilla base Friday said mainly old men and women and young children had been found in the village, and very few young men of fighting age remained there.

"It seems there were no transgressors here, they had probably fled," he said. Newspaper reports said the army found several Chiapas towns all but abandoned as the rebel column was headed.

A spokesman for the National Defence Ministry told Reuters Saturday that the soldiers, one a colonel, were shot in an ambush by several rebels when their column of armoured vehicles entered the town of Nuevo Monon west of Guadalupe Tepeyac. The attorney general's office earlier said that only the colonel had died in the attack, which it attributed to a lone sniper.

Mexican News Agency Notimex said another 10 troops were injured in the incident.

The attack shattered a ceasefire which had held since mid-January 1994 following the New Year's Day uprising by the Zapatistas to demand indigenous rights and greater democracy.

President Ernesto Zedillo ordered the arrest of Com. Marcos and identified him for the first time as Rafael Sebastian Guillen. The identity of the charismatic leader had been a mystery, hidden behind a trademark ski mask.

Mr. Zedillo ordered the

6,000 people in recent months, into rugged, jungle-covered mountains to the north.

Government troops blocked access to the conflict zones to virtually all journalists and appeared to be cutting off roads out of the area to prevent Com. Marcos' escape. His whereabouts were unknown, but his refuge was believed to be in the area where the rebel column was headed.

A spokesman for the National Defence Ministry told Reuters Saturday that the soldiers, one a colonel, were shot in an ambush by several rebels when their column of armoured vehicles entered the town of Nuevo Monon west of Guadalupe Tepeyac. The attorney general's office earlier said that only the colonel had died in the attack, which it attributed to a lone sniper.

A statement released by his office late Friday said security forces were acting with strict respect for the law and denied that the surprise move against the Zapatistas was a sign of a new hardline approach to the insurgency.

"This is not authoritarianism or political hardening," the statement said. Mexico City newspaper El Financiero, citing an unnamed source close to U.S. intelligence agencies, reported Saturday that Mr. Zedillo ordered his crackdown after Mexican Armed Forces lead-



Mexican army patrols enter the restricted road to Guadalupe Tepeyac from Los Margaritas, Chiapas, 78 kms southeast of San Cristobal De Las Casas. The army has restricted all access to their areas of operation as they search for

ers told him to act now or "his days as president of Mexico were numbered."

Two of the five alleged Zapatista leaders ordered held by Mr. Zedillo were arrested Friday in Chiapas.

The hope, one government official said, was that cutting off the leadership of the Zapatistas would lead to their disbandment as a military force.

Despite the fatal attack in Guadalupe Tepeyac, there appeared to be little rebel resistance to the military advance as the Zapatistas, said to number up to 12,000, melted away in the face of the heavily armed security forces.

Although it was not clear if the guerrillas were simply avoiding contact with government forces or running for the hills in disarray, the advance drove a wedge into Zapatista territory and raised the question of whether they will ever again be able to

claim control of large parts of the state.

Meanwhile, angry protesters filled Mexico City's huge main square Saturday calling for an end to the government's crackdown in Chiapas.

The crowd, estimated by witnesses at about 100,000 people, shouted anti-government slogans and held up signs supporting the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

March leaders, who included members of the political opposition and pro-democracy groups, promised in the coming weeks to step up the pressure on Mr. Zedillo to stop the military intervention in Chiapas and negotiate an end to the wrenching crisis.

"This (protest) is going to spread to the entire country," protester Jorge Hernandez, a 29-year-old anthropology teacher, said.

Honest Beijing cab driver returns \$1 years' wages

BEIJING (R) — An honest Beijing cab driver returned to a Russian woman passenger a lost bag containing the equivalent of a lifetime's wages for the average urban Chinese, the Beijing daily reported Sunday. On Friday afternoon the woman took a taxi from Beijing's most expensive department store to a nearby hotel where she got out, leaving behind her bag containing 250,000 yuan (\$30,200), it said. An hour later, she found her bag was missing but did not know the name of the driver or his company. In a panic, she had a friend call the city taxi hotline and left her number. Five minutes later, the operator called back to say that the driver had already handed in the bag. "I could not imagine this would happen," the paper quoted her as saying. "If this were Moscow, there is no way I would have got the money." Her hotel overlooks a street popular with Russians who buy large quantities of clothes, coats and jackets which they take home and re-sell. The average urban Chinese in 1994 earned 3,150 yuan (\$373), official figures show.

Paul McCartney composes classical work

LONDON (R) — A classical work for piano by Paul McCartney will be premiered at a special charity dinner hosted by Prince Charles next month, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper said. "The Prince of Wales has invited the former Beatle... to play a £250 (\$290) a head dinner to raise money for the Royal College of Music, of which the prince is president," the newspaper said. McCartney, 53, will not himself play the solo piece for piano entitled *A Leaf*. Instead, it will be performed by Russian Anya Alexeyev, a former student at the college.

Woman arrested for smuggling diamonds

JOHANNESBURG (APP) — A Belgian woman was arrested as she attempted to leave South Africa with some one million rand (\$262,000) worth of diamonds hidden in her vagina, police said Saturday. The unnamed 48-year-old woman was detained shortly before she was due to board a flight to Germany late Friday after detectives searched her luggage and found condoms and vaginal cream, police spokesman Colonel Dave Bruce said. "Suspicious diamond squad detectives took her to hospital where she was X-rayed," Col. Bruce said. "The X-ray showed two foreign objects in her vagina." Realising the game was up, the woman removed two condoms from her vagina containing the uncut diamonds, Col. Bruce said, adding that the woman will appear in court Monday.

'Lion King' artwork brings record

NEW YORK (AP) — An auction of artwork from Disney's *The Lion King*, the top-grossing movie of 1994, raised almost \$2 million Saturday, a record for animation art. The standing-room-only sale at Sotheby's attracted a wide range of bidders, from seasoned collectors to parents with young *Lion King* fans, said Frances Ingersoll, the *Animation* House's animation art specialist. The highest price paid at the 256-piece auction was \$39,100 for an image of the *Lion cub Simba with Pumbaa and Timon*. The *meerkat*. The image, which went for almost eight times the pre-sale estimate, was bought by a private European collector.

Explicit Demi Moore poster upsets land of 'Ooh-la-la'

PARIS (APP) — An explicit poster of film star Demi Moore showing her strapping actor Michael Douglas with her skirt pulled up has been ordered removed from billboards in three French towns. The life-size posters, advertising Barry Levinson's film *Disclosure*, have been removed in Versailles, west of Paris, Arcachon, on the Atlantic coast and Aix-en-Provence, southeastern France. In Arcachon, Pierre Latillaud said: "I received many complaints from parents who think the advertisement should be less suggestive."

Reconciliation ceremonies to mark anniversary of Dresden bombings

BONN (AFP) — Germans, British and Americans Monday mark the 50th anniversary of the wartime Dresden bombings in a city rebuilt upon the ashes of the Allies' unprecedented firestorm.

On Feb. 13 and 14, 1945, Allied bomber planes reduced the old German city of Dresden, which was filled with civilian refugees fleeing the Russian advance, to a great blazing ruin.

Estimates of the number of people who died in the inferno vary widely. Those based on records available today put the figure at 25,000-35,000, but a toll of as high as 300,000 is also mentioned.

On one aspect of the event, however, the historians are near-unanimous. There was very little military-strategic justification for wreaking such thorough death and destruction on the city.

Rather, as a German-based British diplomat commented this week in connection with the 50th anniversary commemoration of the bombing of Dresden, "it was one of those things that happen when war takes place."

The principal aim of the bombing, in a war which was characterised by aerial

attacks on civilian targets on both sides, had been to demoralise the Germans and break the resistance of Hitler's Third Reich.

The British, Americans and Russians agreed at their Yalta conference that Dresden should be hit, to prevent the Germans from using it as a rallying point against the Russian advance, according to British sources.

For weeks the chief of Britain's Bomber Command, Air-Marshal Arthur "Bomber" Harris, had been planning a "double strike" against Dresden, and now the weather was right. In the event there was a triple strike and more.

The first warplanes set out with incendiary bombs to illuminate the city.

In two separate raids three hours apart on the night of Feb. 13-14, 796 Lancasters and nine Mosquitos dropped 1,478 tonnes of high explosive and 1,182 tonnes of incendiary devices, according to the Bomber Command Diaries.

In the first attack, 244 Lancasters dropped over 800 tonnes of bombs. In the second, 529 Lancasters dropped more than 1,800 tonnes.

EU aims to resolve TV quotas row

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — European Union culture ministers meet here Monday for talks aimed at resolving deep differences over how to support Europe's audiovisual industries against American and Asian imports.

At the heart of the two-day brainstorming session will be the future of EU broadcast quotas designed to help the European film industry turn back the tide of Hollywood domination.

The quotas, which date from 1989, mean general TV stations are obliged to ensure that a majority — 51 per cent — of their programming is of European origin.

But the addition of a "where practicable" condition and other loopholes have limited the impact of the "Television Without Frontiers" directive.

According to the European Commission, non-European material accounts for between 55-60 per cent of TV programming and 80 per cent of films shown in the 15 EU countries.

And Britain, whose former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was instrumental in having the "where practicable" clause inserted, is fighting a legal battle in the European court over whether it can be forced to implement the directive.

France has made updating the directive a priority of its six-month term of office, which ends in June, and its concern about a perceived threat to European cultural

Manila: China cut back force in Spratlys

MANILA (R) — China has withdrawn seven of the nine ships it deployed around a coral reef claimed by the Philippines in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, military officials said Sunday.

But the situation remained a cause for concern because the two Chinese vessels still in the area of Mischief Reef are both warships, said the officials who asked not to be named.

A cluster of structures erected by the Chinese above the reef was also still there, the officials said.

It was not clear whether the seven vessels which had left would return. Aerial reconnaissance showed the ships had left by Thursday morning and had not returned Saturday afternoon, they said.

The ceremonies in Dresden will be an expression of reconciliation between Britain and Germany in particular, and among those participating will be the Bishop of Coventry and Coventry's Lord Mayor.

reflected in a proposal from education and training commissioners to reject quotas on principle and is implacably opposed to any suggestion that the directive should be tightened, as was mooted in a revised draft circulated in Brussels last year.

"It was only the loopholes that made the existing rules acceptable in the first place," one British official commented.

Opposition to any tightening of the restrictions is also strong in the Commission, which is charged with producing a proposal for a new directive.

At an orientation debate last week, a majority of the commissioners appeared to oppose an open-ended continuation of quotas. Marcelino Oreja, the audiovisual commissioner, is expected to tell the ministers that any proposal to toughen the existing regime is unlikely to win majority support in the EU's executive body.

Commission President Jacques Santer has gone on record as saying quotas are not the answer for the European industries.

He has however hinted that they could be maintained as an interim measure while steps designed to boost the industry through tax-breaks and subsidies are implemented.

Concern that U.S. domination of the European film industry will soon extend to the emerging market for multi-media products were

Angolan rebel congress confirms peace pact after Savimbi intervention

LISBON (AP) — The national congress of Angola's rebel movement overruled military hardliners Saturday by confirming its acceptance of peace accords to end the civil war.

The truce that followed the accords has been tenuous but many observers judged Friday's belligerent stance to be mostly political bluff.

The rebel UNITA's Radio Vorgan said 2,000 delegates meeting in the central Angolan town of Bandaluando approved 21 resolutions backing the peace deal signed November in Lusaka, Zambia, and welcoming the impending dispatch of 7,000 UN peacekeepers.

But the radio, monitored by Portugal's news agency (LUSA), said military hardliners in rebel ranks had gone along with the plan only after "decisive persuasion" from rebel UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi.

The rebel military brass, still smarting from military setbacks at the hands of government troops last fall, spoke out Friday for rejec-

tion of the accords and a return to war.

The truce that followed the accords has been tenuous but many observers judged Friday's belligerent stance to be mostly political bluff.

UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, has never been militarily weaker and the accords, while not perfect for UNITA, offer the possibility of power-sharing with the government.

Angola's 19-year war erupted on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975 and has killed a half-million Angolans. Millions more are left threatened by starvation and disease.

The U.N.-brokered accords have eased fighting but both sides have said the truce can only be cemented by blue-helmeted U.N. troops. The Security Council approved the 7,000-strong force last week but did not

call for public support to stop a massive anti-Marcos order.

It has merely acquired democratic stripes. Even though we like to see a sustained expansion of the Philippine economy, with growth unimpeded by political gridlock, the demise of the opposition is never politically healthy.

The Inquirer newspaper said: "This is probably going to be one of the most lopsided senatorial polls in post-war Philippine history. The opposition parties enter the race with tremendous handicaps. They don't have nationwide party machines and suffer from meager resources compared to those of the coalition. The administration ticket enjoys the advantages of incumbency."

The main force against Mr. Ramos is the Roman Catholic Church.

After Pope John Paul II's triumphant visit to Manila in January, the church called for Filipinos to vote for candidates who oppose birth control, which was promoted by the popular minister of health, Juan Flavie.

Since then Mr. Flavie has left his position, at Mr. Ramos's request, to run for the senate and was replaced by a man seen by the church as more sensitive to its views.

The satisfaction displayed by the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, suggests Mr. Flavie's departure may have resulted from a compromise with Mr. Ramos to moderate the church's strong feelings ahead of the elections.

Commenting on Mr. Ramos's growing power,

political analyst Amando Doronila said, "the single-party tendency merely went below the surface during the Aquino democratic regime, only to resurface in Ramos's system."

Card. Sin said he decided to call for public support to stop a massive anti-Marcos order.

It has merely acquired democratic stripes. Even though we like to see a sustained expansion of the Philippine economy, with growth unimpeded by political gridlock, the demise of the opposition is never politically healthy.

It is a problem of life and death. That was why I got involved, but (my) involvement turned out to be political because (Marcos) was driven away. But it was not really our intention to engage in politics. My intention was the protection of life."

However, Card. Sin said his criticisms are not always welcomed. He has had several disagreements with Mr. Ramos, the country's first Protestant leader, including on the issues of family planning and the use of contraceptives.

"I have been making resolutions to keep quiet, but sometimes my tongue is itching and I have to speak out."

Also, Card. Sin said last month's visit to Pope John Paul II in the Philippines has helped revive the enthusiasm of the country's Catholic majority.

"The church is flourishing. The church is becoming stronger everyday," he said. About 85 per cent of the Philippines' 66 million people are Catholic.

Card. Sin said the Pope's visit to many countries is helping the church gain adherents.

"The church is flourishing. The church is becoming stronger everyday," he said. About 85 per cent of the



Peruvian commandos wait at the El Milagro army fort in the Department of Amazonas for deployment to a combat zone at the border with Ecuador (AFP photo)

Fierce Bihac fighting 'endangers truce'

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Fierce fighting in the Bihac region over the last few days threatens to undermine the fragile ceasefire in Bosnia, a spokesman for United Nations peacekeepers said Sunday.

The commander of Bosnian forces, General Rasim Delic, meanwhile, accused U.N. forces of failing to meet their commitments under the six-week-old ceasefire. In a letter to General Rupert Smith, commander of the U.N. Protection Force, Gen. Delic said he would boycott peace talks scheduled for next Wednesday.

At least one person was killed and several were wounded Saturday during artillery battles in Bosnia's northwest Bihac enclave.

The fighting put new pressure on the Dec. 24 ceasefire, which has generally held elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia since going into effect Dec. 31.

The U.N. spokesman, Major Herve Gourmelon, said the recent clashes pitting Bosnian government forces

against Bosnian Serbs and secessionist Muslims "endanger the ceasefire and the peace process."

He said the U.N. had not been able to tell who was to blame for fierce fighting Saturday between Bosnian government forces and Bosnian Serbs in the area of Bosanska Krupa, a Serb-held town east of Bihac.

Those clashes followed artillery battles for control of water supplies to Bihac and fighting around Velika Kladusa, headquarters of the secessionist Muslim leader Fikret Adic, whose forces are backed by Croatian Serbs.

Gen. Gourmelon said U.N. staff recorded about nearly 1,500 incidents of gun, mortar and tank fire during the fighting Saturday.

According to local Bosnian sources cited by the United Nations, Mr. Adic's forces launched two battalion-level attacks Saturday south and east of Velika Kladusa. The town was recaptured in December by Mr. Adic's

Party row over Europe may engulf Major

LONDON (R) — Can John Major's government survive until the next general election?

The British prime minister has defied the odds many times before. But after a week of infighting over Europe that was extraordinary even by the standards of his ruling Conservatives, political observers are wondering how long he can stagger on.

"If and when historians chronicle the strange death of Tory Britain, they may cite this week as the one which sealed its fate," the Economist, a highly respected weekly newspaper, said.

"Before, the government seemed doomed if it could not resolve its decisions on Europe. Afterwards, it seemed doomed never to resolve them," it added.

The Conservatives' debate over Europe often seems abstruse, especially when it gets bogged down, as now, in nuances over whether Britain's participation in a future single currency would have "constitutional" or merely "political" consequences.

The Conservatives are renowned for their instinct of self-preservation. But some admit privately their divisions over Europe may run so deep that the party will split over it.

black Americans, to South Africa to visit sites pertaining to the liberation struggle, including prisons and the birthplace of Nelson Mandela.

The Women's League plays an important role within the ruling ANC, often influencing policy decisions and the selection of leaders.

The league has been severely split since Mrs. Mandela was elected president in 1993, with the Sunday Times reporting that five of those members of the executive who did not resign Saturday have been made trustees of Mrs. Mandela's tourism project.

Mrs. Mandela is often involved in controversies, recent ones including her suing a soft-porn magazine for labelling her "Asshole of the Month," and her being sued for non-payment of a charter flight to Angola.

Winnie has yet to respond to the reports.

She failed to attend the Women's League meeting Saturday when 10 senior members, including Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, resigned, joining veteran anti-apartheid activist Adelene Tambo, who quit Friday.

The resignations from the influential body were in protest over a tourism venture between Mr. Mandela and actor Omar Sharif.

They cited Mrs. Mandela's "undemocratic behaviour" in going ahead with the scheme despite objections from the Women's League executive.

Mrs. Mandela and Mr. Sharif have launched a company called "The Road To Freedom," which plans to bring tourists, particularly

Mandela steps into Winnie row

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela went into talks Sunday on the latest crisis involving his estranged wife Winnie, a revolt by the executive of the African National Congress (ANC) Women's League, which she heads, a presidential spokesman said.

Mr. Mandela was meeting the League's leadership at a hotel here to discuss the mass resignation in the past two days of 11 senior members in protest against Winnie's leadership, spokesman Parks Mankahlama said.

Mr. Mandela declined to give details about the talk or about Sunday newspaper reports that Mandela has asked Winnie, who is also deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology, to withdraw remarks critical of his government or quit.

The Sunday Times said Mr. Mandela instructed Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to hold a meeting with Winnie Friday, in which she was told to retract her criticisms, resign or be fired from the government.

Mr. Mankahlama admitted that Mandela had been unhappy over Winnie's comments and had consulted with Mr. Mbeki, but a public

statement would only be issued later in the week.

Winnie Mandela said at the funeral of a black police officer slain by white colleagues during a strike by black officers that the government had failed South Africans because it had not addressed racism in the workplace.

She told the crowd at last Sunday's funeral that the ANC's "over-indulgence" in reconciliation was a weakness.

Winnie has yet to respond to the reports.

She failed to attend the Women's League meeting Saturday when 10 senior members, including Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, resigned, joining veteran anti-apartheid activist Adelene Tambo, who quit Friday.

The resignations from the influential body were in protest over a tourism venture between Mr. Mandela and actor Omar Sharif.

They cited Mrs. Mandela's "undemocratic behaviour" in going ahead with the scheme despite objections from the Women's League executive.

Mrs. Mandela and Mr. Sharif have launched a company called "The Road To Freedom," which plans to bring tourists, particularly

black Americans, to South Africa to visit sites pertaining to the liberation struggle, including prisons and the birthplace of Nelson Mandela.

The Women's League plays an important role within the ruling ANC, often influencing policy decisions and the selection of leaders.

The league has been severely split since Mrs. Mandela was elected president in 1993, with the Sunday Times reporting that five of those members of the executive who did not resign Saturday have been made trustees of Mrs. Mandela's tourism project.

Mrs. Mandela is often involved in controversies, recent ones including her suing a soft-porn magazine for labelling her "Asshole of the Month," and her being sued for non-payment of a charter flight to Angola.

Winnie has yet to respond to the reports.

She failed to attend the Women's League meeting Saturday when 10 senior members, including Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, resigned, joining veteran anti-apartheid activist Adelene Tambo, who quit Friday.

The resignations from the influential body were in protest over a tourism venture between Mr. Mandela and actor Omar Sharif.

They cited Mrs. Mandela's "undemocratic behaviour" in going ahead with the scheme despite objections from the Women's League executive.

Mrs. Mandela and Mr. Sharif have launched a company called "The Road To Freedom," which plans to bring tourists, particularly

black Americans, to South Africa to visit sites pertaining to the liberation struggle, including prisons and the birthplace of Nelson Mandela.

The Women's League plays an important role within the ruling ANC, often influencing policy decisions and the selection of leaders.

The league has been severely split since Mrs. Mandela was elected president in 1993, with the Sunday Times reporting that five of those members of the executive who did not resign Saturday have been made trustees of Mrs. Mandela's tourism project.

Mrs. Mandela is often involved in controversies, recent ones including her suing a soft-porn magazine for labelling her "Asshole of the Month," and her being sued for non-payment of a charter flight to Angola.

Winnie has yet to respond to the reports.

She failed to attend the Women's League meeting Saturday when 10 senior members, including Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, resigned, joining veteran anti-apartheid activist Adelene Tambo, who quit Friday.

The resignations from the influential body were in protest over a tourism venture between Mr. Mandela and actor Omar Sharif.

They cited Mrs. Mandela's "undemocratic behaviour" in going ahead with the scheme despite objections from the Women's League executive.

Mrs. Mandela and Mr. Sharif have launched a company called "The Road To Freedom," which plans to bring tourists, particularly

Fujimori warns of 'dangerous' escalation in fighting with Ecuador

Ecuador jets shoot down 3 Peruvian planes

LIMA (AFP) — Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has warned that border fighting with Ecuador had reached "dangerous" levels after at least three warplanes were shot down by Ecuadorian troops.

Mr. Fujimori, speaking at his first news conference with foreign correspondents on the conflict, said Ecuadorian troops shot down late Friday three planes with artillery recently moved to the combat zone.

"This is a dangerous escalation that Peru is attempting to avoid through all legal means," said Mr. Fujimori during the 90-minute conference.

He said Ecuadorian troops shot down two Russian-built Sukhoi-22 fighter bombers and an A-37 U.S.-made Dragonfly ground attack plane, and reported that a helicopter was "missing."

The air combat occurred as Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran Ballen said earlier this week that the two statesmen might attempt to end the fighting sparked by a decades-old dispute over an unmarked stretch of border in the Cordillera del Condor.

The border between the two nations was defined in the 1942 Rio Protocol but demarcation of the frontier in the remote jungle area has remained a bone of contention.

An Ecuadorian air defence official meanwhile was quoted in the newspaper El Universo De Guayaquil as saying that its Mirage F1-C fighter planes had shot down three Sukhoi bombers and an A-37 Dragonfly ground attack plane from Peru.

In Quito, Ecuadorian Defense Minister Jose Gallardo, meanwhile, set the casualty toll on his side as nine dead, 34 wounded.

"Our forces are resisting and have not lost one centimetre" of territory, Mr. Gallardo told a news conference.

position themselves, firing several rockets," the newspaper said.

The guarantors of the 1942 Rio Protocol — the United States, Argentina, Brazil and Chile — held two rounds of talks Saturday in Brasilia that yielded no results, Ecuadorian Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez De Cordoba said.

"Things are no better because we still have not reached a ceasefire," said Mr. Fernandez De Cordoba. A Brazilian official said informal talks would continue throughout the weekend.

Mr. Fujimori said that 36 Peruvian soldiers have been killed and 60 wounded since fighting began. He said that two Peruvian soldiers were wounded in fighting Saturday in the hills surrounding Tivinsa and claimed Ecuador had lost six soldiers.

In Quito, Ecuadorian Defense Minister Jose Gallardo, meanwhile, set the casualty toll on his side as nine dead, 34 wounded.

Meanwhile, former U.S. President Carter said Saturday he is prepared to mediate in the conflict between Peru and Ecuador if both countries request it.

In the combat zone in Ecuador, two soldiers reported missing showed up alive and were taken to a hospital for treatment of wounds. Red Cross officials in the zone said Ecuador had four Peruvian prisoners.

Mr. Fujimori meanwhile dismissed suggestions that the fighting was related to the April 9 presidential poll and said the elections would be held even if the conflict remained unresolved.

There have been suggestions that the Peruvian leader hoped to distract attention from domestic issues and boost his authority by seizing the disputed territory.

Peru also announced plans Saturday to dispatch a commission of 17 people — historians, lawyers, businessmen, diplomats, politicians and journalists — to counter what they claimed was Ecuador's "disinformation" campaign.

The envoys were to hold meetings with foreign governments to win support for Peru's territorial claims.

Meanwhile, former U.S. President Carter said Saturday he is prepared to mediate in the conflict between Peru and Ecuador if both countries request it.

Rangoon troops step up bombardment of Karen camp

MAE SOT, Thailand (AFP)

fought successive Rangoon regimes for autonomy since 1948.

It came under intense attack again in late January when Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) launched a concerted campaign to end ethnic Karen resistance.

Government forces have already lost at least 130 men in the Karen state while the rebels put their death toll at just six. And experts say taking the stronghold could take many days, if not weeks.

Intense shelling on the Karen National Union (KNU) camp at Kawmoora began Saturday night. Government artillery fired a round a minute for 90 minutes, a border source said. Small arms fire backed up the barrage.

The attack resumed before dawn Sunday with artillery bursts heard clearly just across the border in the town of Mae Sot.

Kawmoora, a camp on the Moei River surrounded on three sides by Thai territory, is the last major base of the Karen rebels, who have

these shells.

The junta won an important victory when it took the Karen headquarters at Manerplaw on Jan. 27. But the strongarm tactics there and at Kawmoora could just force the ethnic Karen back into a guerrilla war in which they are proven experts.

It could also make other opposition groups, such as the National League of Democracy, led by detained Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, more radical.

A senior U.N. official in Bangkok said that the timing of the government offensive, to coincide with a visit to Rangoon by U.N. human rights envoys Alvarez De Soto and Francesco Ventidio, had been seen as "a slap in the face" for the United Nations.

Potential investors will "think twice" about Burmese approaches, said a diplomat. A planned gas pipeline between Burma and Thailand is already a declared target for Karen and student guerrillas.

Hunger, sickness, despair stalk Chechenya cellar children



A Chechen boy stands next to an armed man at a Chechen check point near Samashki (AFP photo)

cellar underneath what used to be a machine tool factory, and hundreds more crowded in at night when the Russian shelling became most intense.

The dozens of children in the cellar, one of many such shelters in Argun and Grozny, catch the eye, but not the ear. They are easily quiet, and laughter is rare.

A few lights fed by a generator pierce the gloom. The cellar, which measures about 50 metres by 30, smells like a medieval dungeon with bad sewage.

Stacked cots line one side of the cavern. There are small doorless rooms giving off the other sides. Their concrete floors are covered with water which the women mop up ceaselessly.

The toilet is nothing more than one of these rooms. To use it, you stop your way across rickety planks.

"Russia took away their childhood," an old man said.

Ms. Ibraghimova added: "I'm exhausted. I cannot find words. One woman here went crazy and got sick when they started bombing. She died like a dog. She had no funeral."

Feeding the cellar people is rat-infested. "Rats? What kind of rats? There's nothing to eat down here," was the

quick reply.

Despite the shelling, some of them creep back to their homes in above-ground Argun during the day and bring back whatever they can.

Then they go to a local street market outside the town and trade for food.

There used to be a grain elevator above-ground with wheat that could be turned into flour and bread.

But the elevator was

bombed two days ago, an Argun official said. So bread is running out.

Sometimes the Chechen fighters above ground bring down some food.

Zoya Kanayeva, 27, a refugee from Grozny, managed to feed her two children aged five and three a cup of tea and some bread this morning. For supper, perhaps there would be some macaroni or rice.

She pointed to her son, dressed in little overalls. "He has nothing else to wear. All our clothes were destroyed when the house was

bombed," Ms. Kanayeva said.

Many of the cellar people are ill. Aslan Daudov, 24, is a haemophiliac who said he cannot get the treatment he needs and lives underground in constant fear for his life.

He said there are also cancer sufferers down here.

The children are malnourished and lice-infested.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة الأردنية المستقلة الصادرة باللغة الإنجليزية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

When signatures don't count

YESTERDAY's five-way meeting in Washington of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the PLO to end the deadlock on the Israeli-Palestinian track was held amid ominous signs that the entire Oslo accord was on the verge of collapse if no serious effort was made to rescue it. The gravity of the situation on the Palestinian front has prompted President Bill Clinton to attend the opening session of the meeting in a renewed bid to breathe new life into the almost defunct Israeli-Palestinian National Authority (PNA) peace talks. But what could be at stake too is the entire peace process, as Osama Baz, President Mubarak's adviser, rightly pointed out on Saturday.

The crux of the problem on the Palestinian-Israeli track transcends the issue of holding the Palestinian elections on time or the so-called redeployment of the Israeli troops in preparation for these polls. It also goes beyond the security concerns of Israel and the wave of violent acts perpetrated by extremists. The central issue here is whether in fact Israel under the leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has the necessary political will to move forward the peace negotiations with the Palestinian side on the matter that counts most: withdrawal from the occupied territories and handing over authority and control to the PNA in due course. This is the bottom line which Rabin is hoping to delay, for as long as he can, out of fear for his political life.

It must be remembered that Palestinian violence and counter Israeli violence have preceded the Oslo accord. So, regrettable as the continuation of this wave of violence indeed is, it cannot be construed as the principal obstacle to progress, although it no doubt has a tremendous negative effect on public opinion on both sides of the fence.

What is also particularly troubling is the notion being advanced by some Israeli officials suggesting that there is a possibility of turning back on the Oslo agreement. Israeli Minister of Health Ephraim Sneh insinuated Saturday on Israel Radio that the Oslo accord is not sacrosanct and could be repudiated by his country at will. When challenged that the non-deployment of the Israeli army on the eve of the Palestinian elections would violate the Oslo accord, Mr. Sneh not only answered in the affirmative but added that contravening the agreement with the Palestinians was necessary, in this particular regard.

Now if the peace agreements that Israel freely negotiated and ratified with the PNA are not sacred, then what is? This shifting stance would suggest that nothing Israel commits itself to can be depended on for all times. Israel has always suggested that Arab signatures cannot be counted on. Now it seems the opposite is true.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES
IN DEFiance OF THE Palestinians and the whole Arab Nation, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has announced that he was not ready to implement the Oslo agreement, which calls for Israeli forces' pull-out from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said Al Ra'i, Arabic daily Sunday. With this attitude, said the paper, Mr. Rabin has created a crisis and caused a deadlock in the peace process. The official spokesman of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) has declared openly that Mr. Rabin's government is placing obstacles in the path of peace by refusing to implement its agreements with the Palestinians and by dragging its feet on the question of holding elections and giving the Palestine authority wider powers in the Palestinian territory. It seems that Israel is using the continued Arab resistance against the occupation as an excuse to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land and beef up the Jewish settlements, something which can by no means contribute to the establishment of stability, security and peace in the region, said the paper.

COMMENTING ON THE Arab-Israeli-American meeting in Washington Sunday, a writer in Al Ra'i daily said it was clear that the party was a follow up to the Cairo Arab-Israeli summit. However, the Washington meeting assumes a new dimension since it is being held under the auspices of the United States, which has long considered itself as a full partner in the peace making process, said Mahmud Rimawi. It is also clear that Jordan and Egypt are participating in the meeting for the purpose of pressuring Israel into honouring its commitments towards peace and implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements, he said. The writer said Washington's bid to achieve peace in the Middle East ought to be translated into facts on the ground because the mere signing of peace treaties and agreements would remain ink on paper unless Israel took steps towards their implementation.

Human Rights File

Russia's 'crimes against humanity'

By Waleed Sa'di

THERE ARE many voices which describe what has occurred in Chechnya at the hands of Russian troops as genocide. The indiscriminate shelling and use of cluster bombs to inflict the maximum number of casualties among the Chechen people have been constantly regarded as tantamount to crimes against humanity and war crimes under the relevant Geneva conventions and the two protocols of the 4th Geneva Convention. What is disturbing is the silence of the "civilised" world and Moscow's interpretation of this silence as a license to go ahead with its war effort to bring the Chechens down to their knees. What is even ominous is the probable interpretation of the combined events in Bosnia and Chechnya by the Islamic peoples as a war against Islam. The most pressing issue here, therefore, is whether the "slaughter" of so many Muslims before the eyes of the champions of democracy and human rights would fuel even more extremism among Muslims everywhere.

There is no denying that the repeated mistreatment of Muslims in Europe and in the Caucasus region would leave a deep imprint on the Islamic national psyche and may end up triggering a belief that Muslims are being targeted by a coalition of advanced states. I personally don't share this conviction but I doubt that the majority of the Islamic

World would share my sense of optimism. The majority would prefer to jump into the conclusion that there is an international conspiracy against Islam. The fact that many international and regional conferences have been held for the specific purpose of gauging the so-called Islamic danger ended up lending support to the fears and anxieties of the Muslim nation that it is being targeted as the number one enemy that replaced the communist threat.

There were many other former republics that were part and parcel of former Soviet Union whose decision to opt out of the U.S.S.R. was indeed conducted in an orderly and humane fashion and was accepted by Moscow. The Baltic states offer a perfect example of how the former Soviet Union was transformed into a freely negotiated alliance of former members of the U.S.S.R. without the resort to force. Why can the Baltic countries or even Ukraine, it is often being asked, be free to go their separate ways and Chechnya be denied the same right?

The only obvious explanation for this differential treatment would readily be construed by fanatics as additional evidence that there is an international consensus to keep the Islamic tide checked. This is what Moscow and the major capitals of the world have refused to take into

consideration in dealing with Bosnia and Chechnya. This geopolitical assessment by the Islamic World of the recent events affecting them could in fact propel further extremism among the Muslims of the international community. Moscow would most probably succeed in subduing Chechnya but such a feat could end up planting the seeds for a wider conflict. The thousands that have lost their lives over the battle for Grozny will surely banish humanity for many decades, just like the thousands who were killed in the Bosnian conflict.

The near total destruction of Grozny in order to occupy it cannot but have far reaching implications. This makes the Russian military success a very shallow political, social and cultural victory.

From a human rights perspective, the Russian handling of the situation in Chechnya can only draw fire from many sides on the occasion of the convening of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva this month. Likewise, Moscow will have to explain its conduct before the Human Rights Committee on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The jurisprudence of the committee on the right of peoples to exercise self-determination is too clear to be ignored by any country how powerful it may be.

Weary of war, but ready for peace?

By Alison Smale

The Associated Press

VIENNA — Almost four years into the bloodshed that ripped apart the old Yugoslavia, combatants and their foreign counsellors stand on the brink of peace — or total war.

In coming weeks, mediators either will be able to build on brittle truces in Bosnia and Croatia, or watch war engulf both simultaneously for the first time since fighting started between Serbs and Croats in 1991.

War in both states would produce a military and political tangle more complex than the conflicts that so far have defied solution.

It almost certainly would mean withdrawal of tens of thousands of U.N. peacekeepers in a hazardous operation backed by U.S. and other NATO troops. It also could mean conflict spreading to other parts of the volatile Balkans.

Outsiders — especially the United States — are pressuring local leaders in a scramble to avoid such a nightmare. In both Bosnia and Croatia, Washington is signalling that there can be no final settlement without the support of the Serb minorities.

This has angered Bosnia's Muslim-led government. Yet Washington is simultaneously trying to shore up the government's troubled federation with Bosnia's Croats to make sure the Serbs don't get, or take, too much.

In Croatia, Washington is a key player in foreign

efforts to prevent a new Serb-Croat war if President Franjo Tudjman insists that 12,000 U.N. peacekeepers leave when their mandate ends on March 31.

Local leaders also are putting out feelers for peace — approaches that France wants to explore at a European conference attended by leaders of Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia.

But almost four years of fighting create their own logic.

The aggressive nationalism of Mr. Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic launched the war.

Bosnia's Muslims, the biggest losers, put no faith in outside powers to regain land for them. They have some trust in their army, now better equipped and trained than at the outset of Bosnia's war in 1992.

They stoked deep fears and persuaded Serbs and Croats that ties of blood counted for more than decades of coexistence.

Many people who have lost homes, loved ones and livelihoods in the name of nationalism are weary of war, but see little incentive in peace.

Bosnia's Muslims, the biggest losers, put no faith in outside powers to regain land for them. They have some trust in their army, now better equipped and trained than at the outset of Bosnia's war in 1992.

Travellers to central Bosnia report preparations for

more war when a four-month truce runs out May 1.

In Croatia, the U.N.-backed ceasefire that ended six months of Serb-Croat war in January 1992 still holds.

But Mr. Tudjman insists the United Nations get out, because it has frozen Serb domination of one-third of Croatia while doing nothing to disarm the Serbs or return Croat refugees to their homes.

On Friday, Mr. Tudjman again sought to reassure the world and his own people. "There will be no war, but

Sarajevo.

In contrast to his fighting rhetoric of 1991, Mr. Tudjman does not sound like a man preparing for war. Instead, he and his close aides suggest they hope for recognition from Mr. Milosevic.

The Serbian president, characteristically, is silent. Mr. Milosevic clearly is not anxious to help either the Croatian or Bosnian Serbs whom he incited and bankrolled into war. He now would like to end international sanctions imposed for fomenting that war.

A Milosevic-Tudjman deal is widely rumoured.

Diplomats might coax Mr. Tudjman into extending the U.N. mandate, or accepting some different international presence. Mr. Milosevic would recognise Croatia.

The world would lift sanctions on Serbia, and persuade Mr. Tudjman and the Croatian Serbs to accept an international plan whereby the Serbs handed back some territory to, tattered Zagreb, in exchange for autonomy — not independence — for the rest.

Even if outsiders could pull off such a diplomatic coup, Bosnia would remain at war. Any Milosevic-Tudjman deal would revive the Muslim-led government's fears that the Croats and Serbs, with the world's connivance, simply will divide Bosnia between them.

Already in Bihać, Bosnia's northwestern tip, Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia are making common cause. Those battles have defied hopeful signs elsewhere in Bosnia, such as the opening of roads in and out of besieged

there might be isolated incidents," he said.

Croatia's Serbs, however, already have cut off all tenuous economic and other ties painstakingly negotiated with Mr. Tudjman in the past few months.

They will fight if attacked, and have a promise of support from the Serbs in neighbouring Bosnia.

Even if outsiders could pull off such a diplomatic coup, Bosnia would remain at war. Any Milosevic-Tudjman deal would revive the Muslim-led government's fears that the Croats and Serbs, with the world's connivance, simply will divide Bosnia between them.

As it marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Europe can afford no such self-congratulation. It must brace for more war in its midst.

Revolutions that failed

By G. H. Jansen

THE IRANIANS issued a rather grandiloquent invitation when, earlier this month, people were requested to "celebrate the 16th anniversary of the victorious Iranian Revolution."

The Serbian president, characteristically, is silent. Mr. Milosevic clearly is not anxious to help either the Croatian or Bosnian Serbs whom he incited and bankrolled into war. He now would like to end international sanctions imposed for fomenting that war.

But Mr. Tudjman insists the United Nations get out, because it has frozen Serb domination of one-third of Croatia while doing nothing to disarm the Serbs or return Croat refugees to their homes.

Even if outsiders could pull off such a diplomatic coup, Bosnia would remain at war. Any Milosevic-Tudjman deal would revive the Muslim-led government's fears that the Croats and Serbs, with the world's connivance, simply will divide Bosnia between them.

As it marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Europe can afford no such self-congratulation. It must brace for more war in its midst.

The similar cause in all three cases was that the founders of the revolutions misjudged the national character by having too exaggerated an opinion of the character of their fellow citizens and therefore having unrealistic expectations of how the people would react to the revolution. This was based on the conviction that it is universally true that "we need love the highest when we see it," which is not at all true of the average human being.

Thus, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, perhaps because he had spent his adult life in the cloistered isolation of theological seminaries in Qom and Najaf in Iraq, was convinced that Iranians were far better, more sincere and more dedicated Muslims than they actually were. Which is not to say that the average Iranian Muslim is not, generally speaking, a devout Muslim. The Iranians are a devout people, devout enough to die for the faith as was seen during the Shah's attempted violent repression of the "revolution" in the months preceding its victory when the Ayatollah returned in triumph from exile in France.

However, the revolution then decreed and still decrees no drinking or smoking, which could be found in any reformist movement. But it also decreed no secular music, no poetry and only "improving" films and literature. Plus, of course, women are covered-up from forehead to ankle.

These "reforms" were particularly restrictive for Iranians, who have shown all through their long history, not least under Muslim rulers, that they are a sensitive and imaginative people, not to say sensuous, people, as witnessed in their splendid and colourful mosaics and in their beautiful and colorful carpets. Persian poetry and Persian painting in the miniatures are full of the enjoyment of the beauty of women, of nature, and the pleasure of wine.

A particular Persian pleasure was to have an alfresco meal, a picnic, beside running water, a stream or a fountain, and in mixed company. In short the Iranians like to enjoy the good things in life.

Khomeini, perhaps because he was an Ayatollah and so a very holy man, wanted Muslims to follow his example. And if the Iranians did not do so

indeed, to do so by the "moral police." Nothing turned Iranian popular opinion more strongly against the revolution than the bullying interference of the "moral police," especially in the big cities, where so many Iranians now live.

Equally destructive of faith in the Islamic revolution was the spectacle of the mullahs themselves disobeying the Ayatollah's puritanism and enjoying such things as large houses and expensive cars. The first sighting of a mullah in Mercedes destroyed the moral foundations of the Islamic revolution.

Similarly the plain living of Mahatma Gandhi's Ram Rajya was contrary to the easy-going, pleasure-loving Indian national character. No people could produce the colourful silk sari, nor could the complexities of Indian cuisine be abstemious and ascetic, not forgetting India's world-famous sex marnas, or the so-called "pornographic" sculptures on its temples.

The original seed of the "puritan" dates from the time of Oliver Cromwell in post-Elizabethan England of the 16th and 17th centuries. So Shakespeare was well acquainted with their attitude towards life and he made fun of them.

Indeed, he gave the classic retort to all puritanical practices in his play "Twelfth Night" when the disreputable knight Sir Toby Belch, asks, "think you because you are virtuous there should be no more cakes and ale?" "Cakes and ale" have since become synonymous with the enjoyment of life's simple pleasures.

Outside, observers of India today express surprise that Indian society has so easily and so quickly sloughed off, ignored and forgotten and simply set aside the Gandhian ideals preached by the father of the nation. The real surprise is that they should be surprised.

The failure of the communist ideal was due to a similar, but slightly different, misreading of human nature: Not that ordinary people were not as ascetic as the founding fathers believed but that the average man was not as unselfish and honest as the communist ideal demands.

The failure of communism as a creed and as practice was a noble failure, because it was a failure of the hope of "one for all and all for one," which was the basic belief underlying communism, however much overtaken with dreary dialectic.

Communist economic theory failed to provide an answer to the problem of incentives: Why should a person work for anything larger than himself and his immediate family? Why should he work really hard and devotedly for his town, his community, his class, his country? The only answer would seem to be because of the cash nexus and the fear of punishment for failure, to which may be added, in some cases, professional pride and personal ambition. But these are compulsions, not real incentives. So communism failed.

هذا من الممكن

Oil monarchies learn harsh reality of unemployment

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Arab Gulf monarchies are learning the harsh realities of unemployment in an era of weak oil prices, after decades of soaking up job-seekers on the state payroll.

Qatar's Sultan Qaboos has criticised his own people for boycotting jobs in several sectors because of low wages and at the same time the private sector for serving only their own interests by employing lower-paid foreigners.

He disclosed that around 30,000 Omanis were jobless, in a country of more than two million people of whom 535,000 are foreign workers.

Based on the Gulf International Bank's (GIB) figure of a 162,000-strong Omani working population in 1990, the sultanate's unemployment rate is running as high as 18 per cent.

According to the GIB, which is owned jointly by the six oil-rich states making up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the overall unemployment rate for their nationals was already 14.8

per cent in 1991.

The GCC — grouping Oman with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — set up ministerial committees in December to "explore opportunities to meet the increasing demand for job-seekers."

Although most member states do not publish jobless statistics, they have for the last three decades experienced what Sultan Qaboos termed "unemployment in disguise."

He was referring to the practice of inflating the civil service and army to absorb job-seekers.

The GCC's annual oil income fell from \$180 billion in 1980 to between \$60 and \$70 billion over the past three years, creating high budget deficits.

According to Bahrain's newspapers, the number of jobless Bahrainis jumped from 4,000 in 1981 (6.6 per cent of the local active population) to 13,000 in 1991 (15 per cent).

The opposition says the real figure is at least three times higher.

Despite such difficulties,

Kuwaitis work in the civil service, or 93 per cent of the active population among nationals.

The 8.6-million-strong expatriate community in the six countries make up 37 per cent of their 23-million overall population, according to 1993 figures from the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).

In Bahrain, the GIB said 55 per cent of the 220,000-strong workforce is made up last month.

With a 3.5 per cent annual population growth rate and 43 per cent of the population aged below 20, the GCC population is expected to reach 32 million by the end of the century, he added.

The crisis is even taking its toll on the expatriate community, of whom more than 16 per cent are unemployed.

"The rise in the number of jobless people among immigrants is worrying," said the UAE labour and social affairs minister, Seif Al Jarwan. He blamed the increase for the rising crime rate in the Gulf.

The opposition says the real figure is at least three times higher.

Despite such difficulties,

the Gulf still imports foreign labour. In post-war Kuwait, despite pledges to cut the number of foreign workers, the overall workforce rose from 737,676 in 1993 to 938,778 in 1994.

The high birthrate in the GCC could add to the problem, as an extra million job-seekers are expected to go on the market by the year 2000.

GOIC Secretary General Abdul Rahman Al Jafri said last month.

With a 3.5 per cent annual population growth rate and 43 per cent of the population aged below 20, the GCC population is expected to reach 32 million by the end of the century, he added.

The crisis is even taking its toll on the expatriate community, of whom more than 16 per cent are unemployed.

"The rise in the number of jobless people among immigrants is worrying," said the UAE labour and social affairs minister, Seif Al Jarwan. He blamed the increase for the rising crime rate in the Gulf.

The opposition says the real figure is at least three times higher.

Despite such difficulties,

Lebanon's reconstruction accelerates, agency says

BEIRUT (R) — Repair of Lebanon's war-devastated infrastructure, accelerating and telephone and electricity services will improve noticeably in 1995, the government's reconstruction agency said Sunday.

"The reconstruction process is accelerating in many sectors, but... much still remains to be done," the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) said in its 1994 annual report, obtained by Reuters before publication.

It said it had so far obtained foreign finance for the recovery programme worth \$1.9 billion — \$1.5 billion in loans and \$397 million in grants — an increase of 21 per cent since its last report in May 1994.

The recovery programme was intended to revitalise the economy, provide infrastructure for proper operation of the private sector, and to double gross domestic product (GDP) in 10 years, the CDR said.

It forecast "noticeable improvement" in telephone services by mid-1995 due to installation of digital exchanges and fibre optic lines by

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1995

U.S. capital city in dire financial straits

WASHINGTON (R) — The capital of the country with the world's biggest economy is facing the most severe financial crisis in a century, compounding its serious social problems, Mayor Marion Barry has revealed.

Mr. Barry released an audit showing that Washington D.C.'s budget deficit is far worse than earlier believed, and unless drastic measures are taken, the city will spend revenues by \$722 million in this current fiscal year ending on Sept. 30.

Already among the U.S. cities with the highest homicide and infant mortality rates, the budget crisis threatens to deepen Washington's problems by reducing funds to cure them.

The newly-installed mayor said he was planning to ask Congress to slash the wages of city workers and give him more control over public school spending in a bid to avoid federal intervention in running the city.

The city is a federal enclave with limited home rule powers. Congress still oversees its budget and can veto legislative action by its city council.

Washington's 600,000 citizens, mostly black, have no voting members in the U.S. Congress, only a non-voting District of Columbia delegate. It also has limited taxing authority.

The deficit is over 20 per cent of the city's total annual budget of \$3.2 billion.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An ideal day to do something thoughtful for persons who mean much in your life. Generosity is the keynote now for an easy way to avoid an argument.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Putting things in order around you is wise in the morning. Then extend special favours to those who have been most loyal and helpful to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to get into the inexpensive pleasure that you enjoy with friends. Control your temper with a person whose ideas you do not like.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Supporting your family in their ideas is good and also makes a good impression on others. Take it easy tonight and take some time for yourself.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An ideal day for reading which you have put off. Also, converse with persons of wisdom and integrity. Relatives and friends are apt to be irritable, so avoid them for the time being.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try not to spend foolishly today just to please selfish people. Show good reasoning powers on whatever may arise. Evening is ideal for some interesting reading.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are feeling limited and dull today, so go to an amusement or recreation or see an inspiring picture on TV. Or go to a play and have some good fun this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show that you can be of great help to those who are in trouble. Extend your own horizons. If you think and act in an ethical fashion today, you can be free of private worries.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A friend acts in a strange fashion, but it is not your fault so be patient and kind. Join in group activities this evening and avoid possible trouble.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Showing good judgement with persons who have power over your affairs is wise today. Plan how to be more influential in your community.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Visit with the most high-minded people you know and make this an inspiring day, whether it be in spiritual, scientific, or business matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Being sure to use good judgement is important since your hunches are not good at this time. Carefully attend to any responsibilities which you may have set up for this evening.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

De Klerk calls for Indian Ocean trade pact

in Bahrain in December, GCC leaders agreed to permit citizens from the six oil-rich states to own up to 25 per cent of the shares in their trading companies. But the decision excluded banks and insurance firms and there were temporary exemptions.

Citing the absence of sufficient legislation for stocks activity, the UAE and Qatar also asked to be excluded from the decision for five years. Three other members, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain already allow such an ownership while Saudi Arabia has yet to agree on a monetary merger or to allow each other to open bank branches.

At their last annual summit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are unlikely to reach their goal of achieving a regional common market by the end of the century despite some progress toward a customs union, experts said Sunday.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have set 2000 as a deadline for the common market but economists doubted the project would materialise on time.

While they have made headway in plans for a customs union, one of the pillars for a common market, the six members have yet to agree on a monetary merger or to allow each other to open bank branches.

There were a handful of Saudi companies trading in their shares in the GCC before the Bahraini summit de-

creased a customs union, linking their stock markets and aligning their currencies.

GCC officials have reported progress in unifying their customs tariffs and some of them expect the project to see light within two years, since most of them joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1994.

But reservations by some members about delinking their money from the U.S. dollar have blocked plans for currency alignment, which is an alternative to an earlier proposal for a common currency, the Gulf dinar.

Saudi Finance and Economy Minister Mohammad Abul Khalil, said recently that

Diplomats said border disputes were another main fac-

and Indonesia could form the Indian Ocean pact.

The newspaper said Mr. De Klerk's strong support for the grouping contrasts with South African President Nelson Mandela's lukewarm support.

In his Sydney speech, Mr. De Klerk said South Africa, which held its first all-race elections in April 1994, is poised for sustained and impressive domestic economic growth.

He also said that South Africa was now the gateway to southern Africa with an estimated market of 110 million people.

The stage is set for us to play a particularly significant role in Africa and particularly

in southern Africa," Mr. De Klerk said.

The newspaper said Mr. De Klerk's strong support for the grouping contrasts with South African President Nelson Mandela's lukewarm support.

In his Sydney speech, Mr. De Klerk said South Africa, which held its first all-race elections in April 1994, is poised for sustained and impressive domestic economic growth.

He also said that South Africa was now the gateway to southern Africa with an estimated market of 110 million people.

The stage is set for us to play a particularly significant role in Africa and particularly

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasberger



"I'll order something with a lot of aroma just in case you decide to kick off your shoes during dinner."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRAAL

DULIF

SUMMUE

ZEEWEH

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: NIPPY DRYLY FORMAT GIBLET

Answer: When the soup burned his mouth he was

BOILING MAD

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arthron

TRY one — make the batch yesterday

1. TRAILER

2. DULIF

3. SUMMUE

4. ZEEWEH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHAT THE WELL-TO-DO CANDY MAKER ENJOYED.

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: NIPPY DRYLY FORMAT GIBLET

Answer: When the soup burned his mouth he was

BOILING MAD

THE Daily Crossword

By Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

1. Foster

5. Strikebreaker

9. Give up

14. Notable lines

15. Old World rabbit

16. Barr's dad

17. American Omaha

19. Ganty or Fudd

20. Invade

21. Head from

23. Drinks like a cat

24. Auction moves

25. Voices vote

27. Holder of

28. Kind of race

29. Jazzyman

30. Blabber

31. Lush, green

32. Luncheon

33. Firsts

34. Gamblers

35. Phoebe

36. Mastodons

41. Gold Sp.

Business & Finance

U.S. capital city in dire financial straits

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Egypt to lower Suez Canal fees on goods to Jordan

** The Jordanian and Egyptian authorities have reached a preliminary agreement to lower Suez Canal fees on goods destined to Aqaba by between 30 to 50 per cent. Such a step would increase the competitive edge of the Aqaba port, among other ports in the area, especially for transport to and from Europe (Al Aswag).

** Jordanian and Egyptian authorities have agreed to expand the role of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company to include tourism transport and cargo transport. The company is expected to put its first class tourist vessel into service at the beginning of April to take tourists between the ports of Aqaba, Nuweiba, Sharm Al Sheikh (Al Aswag).

** The first batch of a new price list for imported drugs was released by the Ministry of Health and the second is expected within a couple of days. According to the list, the average price decline was nine per cent. Drugs that are most likely to cost more are those of Swiss, German and, probably British origin, while prices of Italian and Greek drugs will decline. The Ministry of Health reviews prices of imported drugs whenever changes occur in the exchange rate of foreign currencies against the dinar (Al Aswag).

** An economist estimated the volume of losses as a result of price falls at the Amman Financial Market since February 1994 at JD 321 million. The figure translates into JD 68,360 per individual. A broker at the stock exchange estimates the number of investors in shares and stocks at 880,000 persons (Al Dastour).

** Royal Jordanian sold its stake of 90,000 shares in Jordan Express Tourist Transport Co., to the Cairo Amman Bank. The price was JD 50 per share (Al Dastour).

** The general assembly of the Jordan Golf Real Estate Investment Company has agreed to merge with Petra Enterprises and Equipment Leasing Company. The new company will have a JD 5 million capital, JD 4.5 million of which will be that of Jordan Gulf and JD 0.5 million of Petra Enterprises. The new company will focus on developing key land plots, building comprehensive and developed housing complexes and entering in the tourism and hotel business (Al Aswag).

** The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has a comprehensive plan to modernise the national water network at a cost of JD 55.6 million. Water lost in the network in Greater Amman exceeds 53 per cent and the plan aims to reduce this to ten per cent. The plan, which is to be implemented in stages soon, will first include Jabal Amman, Jabal Luweibdeh, Jabal Al Hussein, Al Jofeh, Al Hasbani, Al Shamali, Al Ashrafiyah, Marka, downtown Amman and Wadi Al Haddad as well as the cities of Irbid, Zarqa, Mafrqa and Ramtha. The second stage of the plan involves modernising deplated water networks in other areas of Greater Amman (Al Ra'i).

** The Arab Union International Insurance Company posted a net profit of JD 192,608 net during its 1993/1994 financial year, 47 per cent lower than the previous year. The company attributed the lower profit to the JD 101,754 loss in the vehicle insurance department as premiums remained unchanged despite rising costs for car repair and spare parts. Despite the decline in profit the company is distributing JD 112,000 in dividends at 14 per cent (Al Aswag).

Diet changes in Asia keep threat of shortage at bay

HONG KONG (AFP) — Changing diet in several Asian countries keeping at bay a possible shortage of rice, the region's staple, despite the pressure of growing population, natural calamities and diminishing farmlands.

To stave off shortages, Asian governments are monitoring stockpiles in the region, which accounts for 90 per cent of the 500 million tonnes of rice produced in the world annually, analysts told AFP.

Asian history is replete

with instances of governments being toppled as a result of rice shortages, they said.

Mahabub Hossain, an economist at the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute, said per capita rice consumption has decreased in high- and middle-income countries such as Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia.

"This is because people in these countries have reached income levels that allow them to eat out more in fast food joints and restaurants as well

as afford meat, fish, vegetables and bread," he said.

But he warned against complacency, noting that the majority of countries, including China, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh, were still heavily dependent on rice, adding: "Rice is a luxury for the poor."

Figures showed that 70 per cent of the more than three billion people in Asia subsist wholly or partially on rice.

Lee Tseng-Chung, an official of the Taiwan council of agriculture, said the Taiwanese were eating less rice due to a greater diversity of food choices.

"It is a common trend, people tend to consume less rice as they get richer," said John Leung, the Hong Kong government's principal trade officer.

Consumption of rice in Hong Kong declined 14 per cent to 327,000 kilogrammes last year compared with the previous year, and per capita

consumption has fallen sharply from 120 kilogrammes in 1961 to 56 kilogrammes last year, Mr. Leung said.

"There is a trend towards the mushrooming of fast-food and western-food outlets," said Retno Widiasuti, a researcher at the Foundation of Indonesian Consumers.

These changes were "important" because a majority of these fast-food outlets' clients were young, he said.

Only four per cent of the world's current total rice output is traded between nations.

But under new World Trade Organisation agricultural measures, nations such as Thailand and Japan are being forced to open up their rice markets.

Nevertheless, rice production has declined in several countries including China, Taiwan, and Indonesia.

China, according to a recent World Population Re-

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1995 9

Foreign investors blow heat in AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Buying by foreign investors coupled with positive political developments in the region last week gave a boost to trading and prices in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) this week after three weeks of stagnation, brokers said Sunday.

The main market indicator, the official AFM general price index, closed on Sunday at 142.24, up 0.47 points, or 0.31 points. On Saturday, the index gained 1.1 points or 0.79 per cent to close at 141.79 points over the week's opening of 140.68 points.

Volume of trading was around JD 915,000 on Saturday. The over one per cent gain in prices in two days was attributed to several factors by brokers. They said the decline in prices in the last three weeks appeared to have prompted foreign investors to buy and this interest was immediately translated into the increase in prices.

The increases were brought about by investors who anticipated foreign capital interest in some of the stock and rushed to acquire them, brokers said. But, said a broker, "the foreign buyers are very picky and choosy. They are focusing on blue chip shares and it is unlikely that they would turn to others in the short term."

However, the very entry of foreign capital, regardless of its volume, was taken by local investors as a positive sign, the broker added.

Investors have been complaining in private that foreign investors, who have secured government approval to enter the market, were not coming in as they expected earlier and this had led to a dampening of an initial enthusiasm which drove up prices early last year.

"It is largely unrealistic to expect foreign investors to pump in millions of dollars into the Jordanian market and somehow allow local investors to make money," said a market analyst. "One has to remember that a foreign investor is looking at involvement in markets all over the world and would only get into a market when he is sure of reaping better returns than any other options."

U.S. replaces Japan as top car producer after 15 years in second place

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan gave up its title as the world's top automobile producer last year, giving the crown back to the United States for the first time since 1979, an industry association has said.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said Japan's automobile output declined six per cent from a year earlier to 10,554,119 units, down 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in 1994 totalled 6,526,696 units, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, while exports fell about 11 per cent to some 4,400 million units.

In December alone, automobile production in Japan grew 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 863,393 units, expanding for the third consecutive month after 25 months of consecutive decline.

Japanese output declined for the fourth consecutive year due to a fall in exports and an increase in overseas production in the wake of the yen's appreciation, associa-

tion officials said.

Output of cars dropped 8.2

per cent to 7,801,317 units, while truck production edged up 0.7 per cent to 2,703,690 units. Bus production was up 2.2 per cent at 49,112 units.

The association said domestic demand in

NBA All-Star weekend

Miner wins slam-dunk contest; Rice takes 3-point shootout

PHOENIX (AP) — Harold Miner cut toward the basket from the left side, spun 180 degrees, lowered the ball to his knees and slammed it backward through the basket.

Miner calls it his "double-pump reverse" jam, a move he's been using since his teens, and it led the Miami Heat guard to his second NBA slam-dunk title in three years Saturday night.

"I bring it way down, as far as I can bring it, and throw it behind my ears," Miner said. "That's one that I've kind of depended on in dunk contests in the past."

Miner started off his final-round routine with that dunk. His second was a flying left-handed jam, and he completed his set with a 360-degree spin and slam.

In the first round, he slammed in one shot with his left hand on the rebound of a ball off the backboard. On another-round dunk that brought the crowd to its feet, he cupped the ball with his left wrist and whirled in the air before jamming it in.

Rap music and on-court commentary by actor-singer Sinbad provided the background for a competition that — with the exception of Miner's dunks and two by defending champion Isiah Rider — failed to excite the fans or the rows of NBA peers watching the dunkers.

There was little of the artistry that Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins provided in the competition's early years. This time, it was all about power.

"I tried to throw them down hard, that's what I try to do on all my dunks," said the 1.96 metres Miner. "Judges like to see power from someone my size."

The judges were all former NBA stars — Julius Erving, George Gervin, Connie Hawkins, Lou Hudson and Maurice Lucas.

Miner scored 49.2 of a possible 50 points in the first round and had 46 points in the final against Rider of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Utah Jazz rookie Jamie Watson.

Miner hit three of his four dunks in the finals, while Rider hit two of four and Watson made just one of four. That meant the top three NBA dunkers hit just 50 per cent of their jams.

Tony Dumas of Dallas, Antonio Harvey of the Los Angeles Lakers and Tim Perry of Philadelphia were eliminated in the first round.

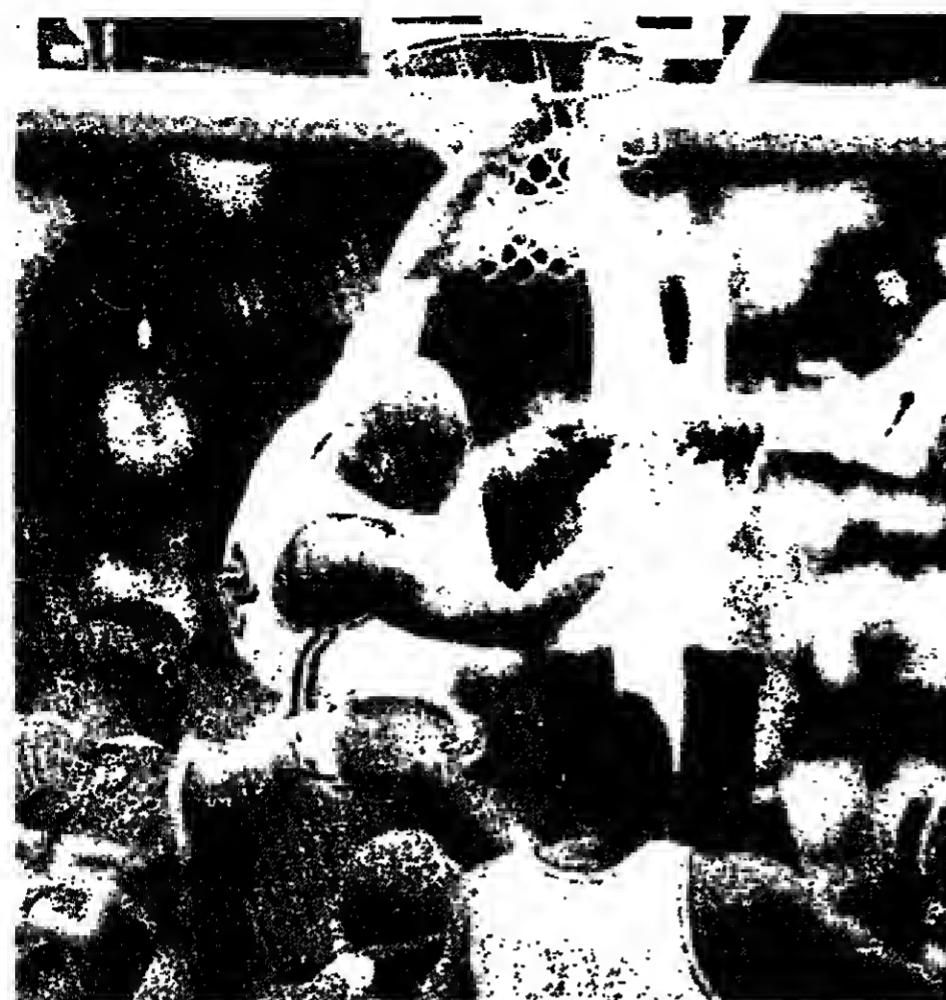
Miner won the slam-dunk competition as a rookie in 1993, but was unable to defend his title last year because of injury.

Rice wins 3-point shootout

Glen Rice was a surprise winner of a shorter, but not necessarily better, long-distance shootout.

Rice, a seventh-place finisher in his only previous appearance in the shootout, because the NBA's 3-point shooting champion Saturday night.

He outscored favourite Reggie Miller 17-16 in the final round, matching the third-lowest final-round total in the event's 10-year history. The eight competitors took 25 shots in each round from the 3-point distance of 6.7 metres. 53 cms less than in



Harold Miner, the NBA's slam-dunk champion in one of his acrobatic moves

previous years.

Mark Price, who won the event the last two all-star weekends, missed this year's shootout because of a broken wrist. He scored 24 points in the finals a year ago from the longer distance.

Previously, the winner of the final round scored 16 points on two occasions — Larry Bird in 1987 and Craig Hodges in 1992.

Both Bird and Hodges won the event three times, with Bird scored 22 points in the 1986 finals and Hodges a record 25 in the first round that same year. No one scored more than 19 in any round this year.

Both Miller, who dazzled NBA fans with his 3-point shooting in last year's playoffs with Indiana Pacers and last summer's world championships for the United States, and Rice scored 19 points in the semifinals.

Rice, who has made 43.9 per cent of his 3-pointers this season, was the last of four qualifiers after the first round. He scored 14 points, while Scott Burrell had 19, Miller 17, and Chuck Person 15.

Rice made his only other appearance in the long-distance shootout in 1991, dropping out after one round with nine points.

Eastern Conference led by new group of young stars

There's a changing of the NBA All-Star guard in the Eastern Conference.

Perennial All-Stars such as Michael Jordan and Isiah Thomas have retired. Dominique Wilkins didn't make the team and Mark Price is injured. With that group gone, the National Basketball Association All-Star game belongs to a crop of new players — Shaquille O'Neal, Anfernee Hardaway and Grant Hill.

Five first-time All-Stars will play for the Eastern Conference.

VERY CLEAN FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, living & dining room, excellent location at 4th Circle, phone & heating are available. Call 642922 from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading industrial and commercial group is seeking for the following position:

An accountant, preferable CPA

Above applicant should be:

1. University graduate.
2. 3 years experience in relevant field.
3. Good command of Arabic & English language.
4. Having good experience in using computers.
5. To be able to analyse and create financial reports.

Send CV to:

Financial Manager
P.O.Box 7676
Amman 11118 Jordan
or call Tel.: 676938

United thrash City rivals to go back on top

LONDON (AP) — Reigning champions Manchester United scored three times in twenty minutes against their old rivals Manchester City to return to the top of the Premiership for the first time in ten weeks at Maine Road Saturday.

Goals from Paul Ince, Andrei Kanchelskis and Andy Cole — his second in as many games — condemned City to yet another derby humiliation following their 5-0 defeat at Old Trafford last Saturday.

But their supremacy may be short-lived as second placed Blackburn play their game-in-hand against Sheffield Wednesday at Ewood Park on Sunday.

Manchester United's victory was slightly marred by some skirmishes among rival fans.

Although the clashes were nothing like the scenes witnessed after Chelsea's game against Millwall earlier in the week, Saturday's brawling will add to the worries of the English football authorities.

United's second-half display brought back memories of their two championship-winning seasons and showed Blackburn they are determined to make it three titles in a row and clinch a European Cup spot for next season.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson threw down the gauntlet to Blackburn after seeing his side regain the Premiership leadership, saying: "We are set-

ting ourselves a target."

"We want to reach our capabilities. If we do that we will know that we'll win plenty of games."

"It was an excellent result. I was pleased with our second-half performance. We were outstanding and our football was excellent. You have to give City credit for having a go at us and for turning it into a bit of a cup-tie," he added.

Andy Cole, United record seven million pounds striker, created United's first goal 12 minutes after the break when he passed the ball to Ince who scored his third goal of the season.

Kanchelskis, whose hat-trick had destroyed City last November, settled for just one goal this time — scoring the second after 74 minutes.

Cole made it two goals in two games three minutes later to round off a good all-round performance.

City were simply outplayed after the break and rarely troubled United keeper Peter Schmeichel, whose only real save came early on when he pushed a Paul Walsh effort round for a corner.

The defeat — extending their run to 10 league games without a win — will only increase the pressure on Horton with Ron Atkinson and Steve Coppell, keen to get back into management, both being linked with his job.

City boss Brian Horton could only pay tribute to United:

"They are like a machine now. They are like

the Liverpool of old. They know what they are doing."

Arsenal's season of woe continued with a disappointing draw with relegation-threatened Leicester, enlightened only by Paul Merson's first goal since his returning from treatment in a drug-rehabilitation clinic.

However, Merson's joy was overshadowed by reports that manager George Graham was going to leave Arsenal on Monday.

But Graham reacted angrily to the rumours, saying: "Thanks for the news but it's something that I don't know anything about."

The biggest win on Saturday came at resurgent Aston Villa who thrashed Wimbleton 7-0 with Tommy Johnstone, a recent signing from Derby County by new manager Brian Little, scoring a first-half hat-trick.

Two goals from Welsh international Dean Saunders and an Alan Reeves own goal completed the rout — all the goals coming after Warren Barton gave Wimbleton an early lead.

Newcastle maintained their pursuit of a place in Europe and made it a miserable return to Tyneside for Forest boss Frank Clark, as he saw his side go down 2-1.

Keegan said: "This was a game that, if we won, we could see a bit of a 'gap' opening up between us and the other teams going for Europe. It was important to win."

Second-half goals from Ruel Fox and Robert Lee lifted this otherwise poor encounter top-of-the-table clash and put United out of reach of a negative Forest.

Forest's Jason Lee reduced the deficit, heading De Ligt's right wing cross back across the face of Pavel Srnicek's goal.

Chelsea captain Dennis Wise party redeemed a dismal week on and off the pitch with a headed equaliser against Tottenham at a peaceful Stamford Bridge.

Convicted of common assault and criminal damage, exiled from the England side and dumped out of the FA Cup by Millwall amid disgraceful crowd scenes, Wise has had little to smile about.

But when player-manager Glenn Hoddle delivered a cross in the 79th minute, the little winger stooped to flick the ball inside Ian Walker's right hand post, equalising Teddy Sheringham's first-half effort.

Hoddle praised Wise afterwards, saying: "I've told Dennis he has to answer people on the pitch."

Liverpool's challenge for a UEFA Cup place suffered a further setback as they could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to Queens Park Rangers.

Coventry gained their first win in twelve games as they beat fellow relegation candidates Crystal Palace 2-0, American World Cup star Cobi Jones scoring their first.

Jackson runs fastest time of year

GLASGOW (AP) — Colin Jackson bounced back from his first defeat for 18 months to post the fastest 60 metres hurdles time of the year Saturday, clocking 7.39 to edge countryman Tony Jarrett.

At the same meet, world and Olympic 100 metre champion Linford Christie clocked the second fastest time this year over 60 metres.

Beaten by American hurdler Allen Johnson in Madrid on Thursday, his first loss in 44 races, Jackson, a Welshman who is world champion and record holder over 110 meters outdoors, was quickest off the blocks and beat Jarrett, the world championship silver medallist, on the dip to the line.

Both Britons were competing on the same team in an international match against France at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall. Jarrett clocked 7.44, trying his own English recruit, Vincent Clarico, was 0.39 behind Jackson in third, a big margin in such a short race.

Barros' arrival at the All-Star game marks the culmination of six years of trying to find his place. Used as a shooting guard in four seasons with Seattle, Barros didn't have a chance to prove himself as a point guard until this season.

Now he's scoring more than 20 points, per game. More importantly, he has 7.4 assists per game, compared to only 2.9 turnovers.

"I don't know how I got over the hump," Barros said. "I don't think it will hit me until I'm in the locker room with Reggie Miller and Shaquille O'Neal."

Despite playing in the shadow of top draft pick Glenn Robinson, Baker has drawn notice in his second season, averaging 17.6 points and 10.4 rebounds for the Bucks.

Even though O'Neal has played in every All-Star game since joining the league in 1992-93, this one will be his showcase. He's the league's



Britain's Colin Jackson (right) points out as he crosses the finish line (AFP photo)

(outdoor) World Championships," he said.

"I find racing is more fun now compared with when I was younger and if I continue to enjoy it, that's the perfect way to get better."

Another British sprinter, John Regis, wound up fifth in that race in 6.37 and later ran the third fastest time of the year in his specialist event, the 200 metres. The powerfully-built Regis clocked 20.67 with Solomon Woriso, running for Britain for the first time since his drugs suspension, second in 21.19.

Christie appeared to be lost off the blocks but made up for that with his typical mid-race burst to win in 6.56 seconds.

The 34-year-old sprinter got past the two-Frenchmen on either side, Sébastien Carrat and Nedy Guins, at half way and won the race by a metre from countryman Darren Braithwaite, who was a guest runner.

Christie's time has only been beaten this season by Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey, who has clocked 6.55.

The British sprinter does not plan to run in the world indoor championships in Barcelona next month but concentrate on the outdoor season and the outdoor championships in Göteborg, Sweden, in August.

"I'm having fun running in some of the indoor races but I'm really gearing up for the 100 metres and won an Olympic gold medal in Seoul seven

years ago. That performance now officially doesn't exist because the 33-year-old Canadian was stripped of the medal and the record after he was caught taking steroids.

"Although it has been scrubbed from the list, I still look upon my 9.79 as the world record," Johnson told the tabloid News of the World.

The world record is held by American sprinter Leroy Burrell at 9.85 and was set last year.

"I didn't fly that day. I ran 100 metres on my own feet and the world saw it. They are desperate to beat it and that all want to say: 'I did it clean, not like Ben Johnson.' But it still goes on," Johnson was quoted as saying.

"The only way they will beat my time is if they only run 90 metres or if there is a wind speed over the limit," he said. "There is no way they will beat it legally."

Joyner-Kersee wins in Sunskist Invitational

In Los Angeles, Jackie Joyner-Kersee and Mark Crear easily won their races for the second night in a row on Saturday, although both ran a shade slower than they had 24 hours earlier.

Joyner-Kersee, a three-time Olympic gold medallist, broke out quickly and seemed to be running smoothly all the way in the women's 50-metre hurdles in the Sunskist Invitational Saturday night, hitting the tape in 6.82 seconds.

The previous evening, she rewrote her own American record with a 6.67 clocking in an indoor meet at Reno, Nevada. The world indoor record for the 50-metre hurdles is Cornelius Oshkenat's 6.58 in 1988.

Lynda Tolbert-Goode finished second to Joyner-Kersee in the meet at the Los Angeles Sports Arenas with a time of 6.97. Doris Williams was third in 7.01.

Crear won the men's 50-metre hurdles with a time of 6.50 to beat another southern Cal alum, Robert Reading, who was second in 6.62. Eugene Swift was third in 6.64.

Crear ran a 6.41 to win at Reno, and Reading finished third in that race with a 6.56.

Mike Marsh, healthy again after two years of struggling with injuries, edged Jon Drummond in the Sunskist men's 50-metre dash. Marsh, the 200-metre champion in the 1992 Olympics, leaned ahead of Drummond at the tape. Both were timed in 5.73 for the 50 metres.

Maria Motola of Mozambique ran her winning streak to 31 consecutive races, taking the women's 800 metres in 2:01.05. She hasn't lost in more than two years and was the 1993 world champion at 800 metres outdoors.

Said Aoutia, out of competition because of injuries for almost three years, finished sixth in the men's mile in 4:06.77. Niall Bruton of Ireland won with a time of 3:58.30.

TAKE YOUR VALENTINE RED ROSE WRAPPED IN A HEART SHAPE BALLOON

AL-FASHER ABU-ZAMAR TRAD. COMPLEX NEAR CHINESE EMBASSY

TELEFAX 962-6-664297

LAKE FLOWERS

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

TAKE YOUR VALENTINE RED ROSE GIFT WRAPPED IN A BALLOON

</

Sports

Swimming world records tumble

SHEFFIELD (R) — American Jeff Rouse and Angela Kennedy of Australia kept the world records tumbling at the two-day Sheffield World Cup meeting Sunday.

In the heats on the closing day, Rouse clocked 24.37 seconds to set a men's 50 metres backstroke short-course record — beating the mark of 24.60 set by Frenchman Franck Schott in Paris at last year's final World Cup meeting on March 27.

Kennedy reclaimed the women's 50 metres butterfly record, in her heats with a storming swim of 26.56 seconds — just 11 days after losing it to American Amy Van Dyken.

Van Dyken had clocked 26.73 in Espoo, Finland, lowering Kennedy's previous mark of 26.93.

The Sunday double hoisted the weekend world record tally at the Ponds Forge Pool to four, after Danyon Loader of New Zealand and Britain's Mark Foster set new standards in the 400 metres freestyle and 50 metres butterfly respectively on Saturday.

The performances earned \$1,500 World Cup world record bonuses, plus shares in a separate award from the Sheffield organisers.

With the closing sessions of finals in the 25-metre pool still to come, Rouse, Kennedy, Loader and Foster were each in line for a quarter of the 10,000 pounds sterling (\$15,000) on offer for setting world records.

Makinen poised to win Swedish Rally

KARLSTAD, Sweden (R) — Finland's Tommi Makinen looks set to win the Swedish Rally after heavy snow dramatically altered the leaderboard on the World Championship second-round event Sunday.

Makinen has pulled away from Mitsubishi Team mate Kenneth Eriksson to the final day, profiting from running second through the stages, and leaving his Swedish colleague to plough tracks through fresh snow.

"Sometimes you can't even see the road and it is like aquaplaning, even on these tyres," said Eriksson.

The Mitsubishi's are beyond the reach of the phalanx of Toyotas, headed as local star Thomas Radstrom.

The world champion team will be content to finish and score some points, with Frenchman Didier Auriol saying: "Conditions are much

Cantona stages second attack

LONDON (AFP) — The future of French soccer star Eric Cantona was thrown into further doubt on Saturday after he was allegedly involved in another Kung-fu style assault while on holiday in the French overseas territory of Guadeloupe — a British television network said here on Saturday.

The Manchester United player, in the West Indies after his brawl with a Crystal Palace fan two weeks ago, has now been accused of becoming involved in a fracas with a television crew.

After United suspended Cantona for the rest of the season, chairman Martin Edwards warned that any such repetition would lead to the former French captain's dismissal.

Independent Television News (ITN) said here on Saturday that its crew went to the Caribbean island to ask Cantona when he is to return to England.

"Cantona became rather annoyed and angry and got hold of Terry Lloyd in a beehive and dragged him across the beach threatening to kill him," Mr. Fisher said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Yannick Noah weds English model

PARIS (AP) — Two Rolls Royce limousines brought former tennis star and French Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah and British model Heather Stewart Whyte to their wedding Saturday in a small Brittany village. Noah, 34, and Miss Whyte arrived separately at the town hall of Saussey, making their way through a throng of photographers for the marriage ceremony, the second for Noah.

The 1983 French Open champion and his bride then piled into one of the Rolls Royces to head to a nearby chateau for a dinner and late-night party. Among the guests were tennis player Guy Forget, numerous models from around the world, and Noah's two children from his first marriage, to a Swedish model. Noah captained the 1991 French Davis Cup team that defeated the United States in the final to win the title.

Bubka predicts record improvement

DONETSK, Ukraine (R) — World champion Sergei Bubka said on Saturday that his world indoor pole vault record of 6.15 metres could be improved by as much as 15 centimetres. The 31-year-old Ukrainian said: "Hitting 6.20 metres is realistic. Hitting 6.30 is also realistic. Beyond that progress depends on the nature of new poles and what they're made of. These new materials make it impossible to make any predictions." Bubka set his latest world record at the Donetsk event in 1993. He has won each of the five previous events, which he promotes, and set world records at three of them.

Italian soccer in trouble again

LUCQUES, Italy (AFP) — Trouble broke out at an amateur football match here on Saturday when sport resumed in Italy following last month's murder. Three fans were held by the police and one man was detained in hospital with a suspected broken nose. Police made several charges to break up fighting fans after the match between Pietrasanta and Grosseto finished 1-1. All sporting fixtures were cancelled last weekend after a Geocat fan was stabbed to death by an AC Milan fan. The death, which sparked off street riots, provoked nationwide outrage.

Nine-man Barcelona crash again

MADRID (AFP) — Barcelona, still reeling from their shock 4-1 home defeat against Atletico Madrid in the Spanish Cup earlier in the week, had two players sent off as they crashed to a humiliating 5-0 defeat at Racing Santander in a first division clash Saturday night. Ironically John Cruyff's side dominated the first half and had more than half a dozen chances to score. But things went awry in the second-half which saw goalkeeper Carlos Busquets and defender Albert Ferrer sent off. Stoichkov (30), Bakero (40) and Kornev (42) all squandered goalscoring chances for Barcelona. In the night's other match Atletico scored a comfortable 3-1 home win over Tenerife.

White Sox lose Jackson to Japan

NEW YORK (AFP) — Darrin Jackson signed a \$3.5 million, one-year contract with the Seibu Lions of Japan on Saturday after failing to agree to terms with the Chicago White Sox baseball team. "He's very happy about the opportunity to go," said Jackson's agent, Alan Meersand. Jackson, who became a free agent in October, hit .312 with 10 home runs and 51 runs batted in last season. Meersand said the White Sox offer was just too low. "He never really wanted to leave the White Sox, but they refused to pay his market value," Meersand said.

22 Malaysian players to be banned

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Twenty-two soccer players and two coaches are expected to be exiled to remote areas of Malaysia next month in connection with the nation's biggest sports bribery and match-fixing scandal. Deputy home minister Megat Jomid Megat Ayob said warrants for their arrest would be issued a few days after the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadhan on March 3 and 4.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

RUBBER BRIDGE VS. DUPLICATE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH: ♠ A 10 9 8

♦ 8 2 2

♥ Q 2 5

♣ J 10 8

EAST: ♠ K 7 4

♦ K 6

♥ 10 9 5 3

♣ 10 9 5 3

WEST: ♠ J 8 7 3

♦ K 7 4

♥ 10 9 5

♣ 10 9 5 2

SOUTH: ♠ Q 4 2

♦ A J

♥ A K J

♣ K Q 9 7 4

The bidding lead: North.

North East South West

Pass Pass 2 NT Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

The big difference between rubber bridge and duplicate pairs is the importance of overtricks and undertricks in the latter. However, that does not necessarily mean you must adopt a different campaign on every hand, depending on the type of competition, but it can be vital on occasions. For instance, how would you play this deal at rubber bridge? Would you change your plan at duplicates?

The auction is immaterial. There is no trump should be reached no matter what bidding methods you use. If you don't get there, consider changing your system.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious. The result — down two.

Don't let that bother you, though. We can bet that on checking the scores, you will have an average result. That is, a correct formula based on the lead, to hold the king of spades, so you can expect most declarers to play the hand exactly as you did.

With a good lead, low spades. At rubber bridge, you have no problem. Since you would not like East to gain the lead and shift to a heart, you rise with the ace of spades, force out the

ace of clubs and you have at least nine tricks no matter what the defense progresses.

What about at duplicate? Nine tricks are not the problem. But you won't be very happy with nine tricks when the rest of the field is making 10 or 11 by putting in the most of your own points. If West has led away from the king, overtricks are sure. Unfortunately, if you choose to play low, East will win the king and the shift to a heart is obvious.

Jordan to give priority to 'stranded Palestinians'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will give priority to ensuring the return home of several thousand Palestinians "stranded" in Jordan during talks this month on the repatriation of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 war, according to senior officials and negotiators.

The estimated 60,000 to 80,000 Palestinians are different from the 900,000 or so Palestinians classified as "displaced" during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the official explained.

The Israeli occupation authorities have denied them entry to their homeland after their post-1967 Israeli-issued permits expired.

"They cannot be classified as displaced persons since they were not displaced. They were permanent residents of the occupied territories even after the 1967 war whose exit and entry permits expired while they were outside their homeland," said a senior official.

"When you discuss the subject with the Israelis, they show all enthusiasm and you get a feeling that things would be done quickly," said the official. "But we have seen little practical action despite our repeated efforts," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

According to a Jordanian negotiator with Israel, most of these people were either studying in Jordan or elsewhere, expatriates in the Gulf or visitors to the Kingdom or other countries who could not return to the West Bank before their permits expired.

"The whole idea of de-

pying them entry is ridiculous," added the negotiator, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. "But then, we have to deal with the reality that it is better to look forward and seek a solution to the problem rather than engage in polemics."

According to the official and the negotiator, Jordan will focus on the return home of this category of Palestinians as a priority during a meeting in Amman this month of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) political department head Farouk Kadour.

"It is clear that the return of these people would not pose any social or housing problems in the West Bank since they were living there until recent years," noted the negotiator, referring to Israel's argument against allowing the return of large numbers of Palestinians.

The Arab sides to the talks met in Cairo early this month in a bid to coordinate their stands ahead of the meeting with Israel. Details of the coordinated strategy have not been revealed except that the three — Jordan, Egypt and the PLO — had drawn up specific proposals and timetables for the return of the displaced.

Under the Sept. 13, 1993, declaration of principles signed by Israel and the PLO, the issue of "displaced" Palestinians will be discussed and resolved among the four parties.

Article XII of the declaration of principles states under the heading Liaison and

cooperation with Jordan and Egypt:

"The two parties will invite the governments of Jordan and Egypt to participate in establishing further liaison and cooperation arrangements between the government of Israel and the Palestinian representatives, on the one hand, and the governments of Jordan and Egypt, on the other hand, to promote cooperation between them. These arrangements will include the constitution of a continuing (permanent) committee that will decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder, other matters of common concern will be dealt with in this committee."

The Jordanian negotiator said the Kingdom "fully agreed with the stipulation that measures should be taken to prevent disruption and disorder" as the displaced return home. "We are as anxious as anyone to ensure that order is maintained throughout the process," said the negotiator.

Jordanian officials note that His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly affirmed that no Jordanian of Palestinian origin would be forced to make a choice between returning to the West Bank or remaining in the Kingdom. "It is a matter of free will and choice of the individual concerned, and Jordan would not ask anyone to leave the country or deny anyone the right to leave the Kingdom and when such a choice is available," said the official.



Palestinians wait at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, hoping to be allowed in during the day's quota

Separation plan ready — Shahal

The Jerusalem Post

THE PLAN to separate Israel from the Palestinians has been completed and will be presented to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by the end of the month. Police Minister Moshe Shahal told political reporters last week, after attending the Rabin and Arafat meeting.

Shahal said the separation line will divide Israeli and Palestinians, but will not "indicate the future permanent line, or lead to political confrontations that will hinder the talks with the Palestinians."

The separation plan will enable stricter supervision of the Palestinians who enter Israel, without having to resort to closure, he said. Shahal noted, however, that a hermetic sealing of the territories is impossible, and warned that while terrorist attacks will be reduced, they cannot be stopped altogether.

Shahal said the separation line is not along the 1967 borders, and takes into consideration settlements such as Otnot and Arab villages that

the green line separated arbitrarily.

Shahal denied reports of an impasse in the talks between Israel and the PLO, and said it was possible to overcome the difficult ties. He said Rabin impressed on Arafat that terrorist attacks make it impossible to advance the autonomy agreement.

Shahal adds:

Meanwhile, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said last night that building a separation fence south of the Jewish settlements in the northern Gaza Strip would be a violation of the Cairo agreement, and is therefore out of the question.

However, residents of Dugit, Nissam and Elier say they will still be exposed to terror attacks if the fence is built to the north. This is why they have asked that an electronic separation fence be constructed to the south of their settlements. They said the fence would be similar to the one built west of Sha'ar Hanegev and Gush Eshkol, which has ensured the security of those residents.

EU plans summit to boost Mideast role

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a bid to further strengthen its role in the Middle East peace process, the European Union (EU) is preparing for a European Mediterranean economic summit to be held in November in Barcelona, Spain.

A French diplomat told the Jordan Times on Sunday the EU hopes the conference would come up with pledges totalling \$6.6 billion for aid and development in the Mediterranean region. The conference will bring together 15 European and 11 Mediterranean countries. There is no fixed date for the conference but it is expected to be held in November this year.

"We will participate effectively in the conference in contrast with Casablanca summit where we didn't take part in its preparations," a European official said.

The aid package of \$6.6 billion comes as part of the European Union's endeavour to encourage joint projects between Europe and Mediterranean countries, the French official said. It is also aimed at bolstering the economies of the countries in the region.

According to the official, France also submitted a proposal to the European Union to allocate \$600 million in financial aid to countries participating in the peace process, mainly Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians and Egypt. The assistance will be directed mainly towards financing joint economic projects between countries in the region, but will be separate from the allotted \$6.6 billion to all participating Mediterranean countries to the Barcelona conference.

The EU plans to play a key role in ensuring the conference's success, the official said.

The EU pledged \$570 million in aid to the Palestinians over five years — about a sixth of the total international aid package. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in

Beirut last week that \$117 million bad been already spent on education and health. Another 20 million European Currency Units (\$24 million) will be allotted to projects in Jordan, informed sources said.

The EU is keen on maintaining strong ties with Jordan. Europe appreciates Jordan's endeavours and its leading role in the region," the official said.

One of the main objectives of the conference, European officials say, is to establish a free trade zone in the Middle East whereby European-Mediterranean commercial exchange will be enhanced. Officials say the conference also aims at enhancing bilateral relations in the political and cultural fields.

"The planned economic conference will present a good opportunity to further enhance European-Jordanian relations," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at

the French Foreign Ministry, also said Europe's role in the Middle East "should not be neglected, but should go hand in hand with that of the United States."

"We support the U.S. in all its endeavours to achieve peace but there are historic and political links between the Middle East and Europe," said Mr. Bouchard, a former ambassador to Jordan. "Our role is complementary to that of the Americans," he added.

Mr. Bouchard arrived here earlier in the day to brief officials on a regional tour by three EU foreign ministers to discuss aid to Palestinians and help resolve the deadlock in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

He said the delegation also extended an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to attend the economic meeting in Spain.

"Syria showed interest in the conference," the official said.

In a press briefing, on Saturday, Denis Bouchard, head of the North Africa and Middle East department at